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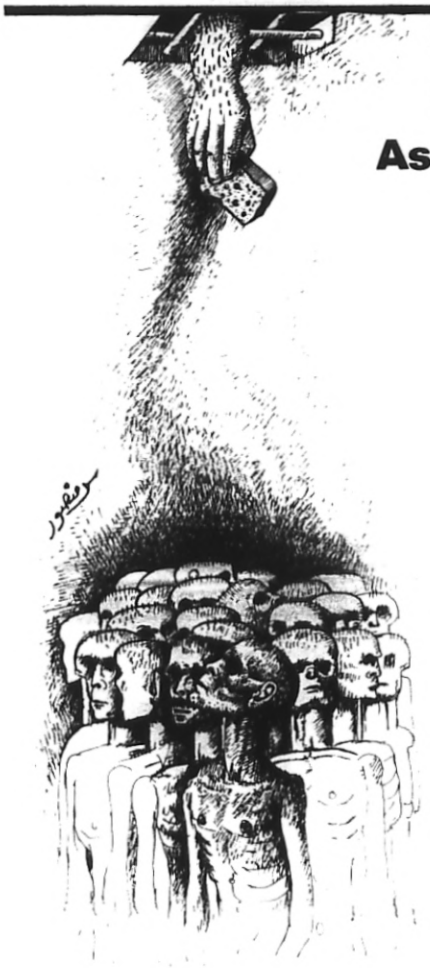

Nafha prisoners on second week of partial hunger strike. See story p.3

Israeli Expert Predicts 1.7 Million Dunum Grab

Six Villages Lose 35,000 Dunums As Begin 'Directly Challenges' Reagan

Israeli military authorities continued their latest land grab campaign this week effectively transferring more than 35,000 dunums of Palestinian-owned land to Israeli hands. The political motivation for the campaign was outlined by Israel's PM Menachem Begin who told the Knesset February 1 that "Jews have the right to settle everywhere."

The hardest hit in the latest round was the Hebron district where land was seized for the purpose of settlement building.

The village of Yatta, south of Hebron, lost 23,000 dunums. The reason for the seizure was unspecified, **Al Quds** Palestinian daily reported.

Some 4000 dunums of land were seized from the village of Taffuh, west of Hebron, January 31. According to the mukhtar, the land belongs to 35 families from Taffuh, most of whom possess British or Turkish issued land titles.

The Israeli authorities also took an estimated 3000 dunums of land belonging to Palestinian residents from Shayoukh, north of Hebron, the same day. Village residents said that six bulldozers were seen opening a 10 meter wide road on the seized land. **Al Shaab** Palestinian daily reported February 2 that the seized plot constitutes a source of income for nearly 300 families. Earlier in the week, Israeli bulldozers were seen working on a 1600 dunum area of land in the village of Surif, north of Hebron. According to the Israeli daily **Haaretz**, the land is to be used for the expansion of the nearby settlement Mitzve Adalim.

In a similar move, the Israeli authorities ordered the seizure of a 120 dunum plot of land belonging to residents from the village of Bala' in the Tulkarm region. These residents complained that Israeli bulldozers began preparing the land by opening a road leading to Al Mintar mountain, east of the village.

In the Ramallah district, 5000 dunums belonging to the village of Mukhmas, were seized last week. According to a **Haaretz** report, the land will be used to build a road to connect the Israeli settlement of Mukhmash to the Palestinian village of Mukhmas.

A detailed report by **Haaretz** published before the military authorities notified the Palestinian residents, spoke of other areas in Jenin and Nablus which will come up for grabs soon.

Commenting on the Israeli campaign, Meron Benvinisti, former deputy mayor of Jerusalem and an authority on Israeli settlements, said that the Israeli government is going for 1.7 million dunums of West Bank land. He explained to **Al Fajr** that they completed a survey of the West Bank land in 1980, and now they are in the process of seizing all **miri** land (land registered as collectively owned under Turkish law).

Benvinisti predicted that the next few months will witness a large increase in the rate of land confiscations.

For his part, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin issued what was described as a "direct challenge" to US-based magazine reports which said that President Reagan had promised King Hussein of Jordan to exert pressure on Israel. In a Knesset speech he reaffirmed his commitment to settling the West Bank. Begin said February 1, "It is impossible to stop settling in the West Bank." (Translations: All local dailies, 28. 1 — 2. 2. 83)

Foreign Lecturers At Hebron University Face Deportation

Five foreign lecturers at the university in Hebron received a "final ultimatum" January 29 from the military governor of the city warning them that if they are caught on campus they will be deported.

The teachers, four British and one Irish, were called to the military headquarters in the city and presented with copies of the revised West Bank work permit application form which includes the notorious anti-PLO pledge. They were told they had to sign within three days or leave the country. Later, an official from the university was told that they had more time but that if the lecturers, all from the English department, were caught on campus, "they will be deported."

Jeremy Jones, one of the five, told **Al Fajr** that the threat had not been made official in writing but predicted "things will come to a head at the start of the new semester on February 17."

Last month the five teachers were warned twice by the local officer in charge of education, Major Baruch Nagar, to stay away from the university. A university spokesman told **Al Fajr** that the removal of half the English department will mean that Hebron's proposed 2000 incoming students next year will not be able to take English as a second language, which the university considers vital to their studies. He also predicted that the latest measures could affect Hebron University's chances of being accepted as a member of the Union of Arab Universities at its forthcoming meeting. Without recognition, its degrees will not be accepted as the basis for higher studies in other Arab institutions.

From having a five year plan, the university is working on a month-to-month or even a week-to-week basis, the spokesman said.

Twenty-two university students, plus one other from Al Najah and "five or six" from the local polytechnic, were remanded in custody at al-Fara'a detention camp, near Jenin, following a court appearance January 30. The students were all arrested after attending a cultural festival at Bethlehem University last month. The driver of the bus who was returning them to Hebron is also still in custody.

Dhahriyeh Under Curfew

Israeli soldiers imposed a curfew on Dhahriyeh, south of Hebron, January 30 after youths stoned Israeli vehicles passing through the town. Reports say that several dozen youths were arrested during night raids.

The curfew was imposed after an Israeli woman, riding in a military vehicle, was seriously injured by a stone thrown at her car which was enroute to Beer Sheba. The woman was taken by a helicopter to a Beer Sheba hospital where her condition was described as serious. The 14,000 inhabitants of the village were immediately put under curfew.

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Military Order 59 Invoked for Battir

Israeli Government Seizes Strategic Mountain Area

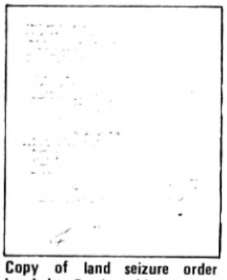
Continuing with its policy of rapid and organised land seizure for settlement construction, the Israeli military authorities declared 500 dunums of land east of the village of Battir, near Bethlehem, state land, January 26. Landowners said they did not recognise the decision and plan to fight the order in court.

The land grab order was transmitted to village residents through their mukhtar, Darwish Mahmoud Darwish, at the Bethlehem area military government headquarters. The order, written in Hebrew and Arabic, and usually issued to the mukhtar as official head of the village, reads: "The area has been declared government property, and the boundaries of the plot are known to me. I pledge to inform the village residents of this order, and also to inform them that anybody who claims a right to the land can submit an objection to the military objections committee, within 21 days from today," (the day the order was issued).

The formalities of the land grab were completed January 27, when an official of the absentee property department came to the village, and pointed out the seized land to a large number of residents. Sixty families, members of each the seven **hamulas** in the 4000-strong village have lost land. Villagers told **Al Fajr** that many of their number were in a state of shock when the Israeli officer pointed out the land. "It took a lot of strength to keep calm, some of them were about to hit him," one member of the council said.

Law

The land seizure order was based on military order 59, of 1967, which gives the Israeli custodian of absentee property, who is also responsible for government property, the authority to declare any plot of land state property. "This order which amended the Jordanian land law, contradicts even the basic principle of justice," one lawyer told **Al Fajr**.



Copy of land seizure order handed to Battir mukhtar

Darwish Naser, a Jerusalem lawyer, and an authority on Israeli military orders explained that under order 59 all West Bank land can be declared state property. It is the responsibility of owners to prove the opposite. "imagine if there was a law which requires people to prove that they are not guilty," Naser said sarcastically.

Why This Plot?

The seized land plot stretches along the middle and top of a mountain range northeast of the village. A large portion of it is sown, mainly with cereals. Another portion is used as grazing land.

It is internationally known that such areas are central targets for Israeli confiscation measures. Local people say this is because the Israelis try to settle on mountain tops, in order to gain complete control of the whole area and because there were few land titles **(kushan)** issued to landowners by the British mandate authorities, for such areas.

Ali Najjar, secretary of Battir village council, told **Al Fajr** that some of the 60 land owners have official land titles for the land. The majority, however, have the land registered under their names, but do not possess a certificate. He explained that during the mandate, landowners only registered small portions of their land property, in order to avoid paying high taxes. The bulk of it is registered, he said, but they do not possess documents for it. To get a certificate of their ownership of land, villagers must apply to the land registration department in their district.

History

On December 20, 1981, Israeli military authorities seized 1000 dunums of land adjacent to the recently seized plot. The landowners took that case to the Israeli High Court but litigation is not complete yet.

Ali Najjar said that the village council, and the affected landowners are now preparing the necessary documents in order to pursue their rights in court. Reports from local Palestinian newspapers said that during the past two weeks more than 50,000 dunums of land in various parts of the West Bank were seized as 'government property.'

Court Stop Order Halts Demolition Of Hebron Stone-cutting Factory

The Israeli High Court issued an order **nisi** January 28 prohibiting the demolition of a stone cutting factory in Hebron after the Palestinian owner was ordered by the military governorate zoning department to demolish it. The military claim the factory is unlicensed. Faisal Mohammad Badawi, the factory owner, claimed in court that the order is part of a plan to transfer control of the area to the Kiryat Arba settlement.

According to local sources, the dispute is actually between the Israeli military authorities and the Hebron municipality over jurisdiction of the town's industrial area. Hebron Acting Mayor **Mustafa Natshe** asserted that the industrial area falls within the municipal boundaries. He explained that the area came under municipal jurisdiction in 1976, after an official request to rezone the area. He added that there are many workshops located in this area, and that it is impossible to remove them.

The Israeli military authorities claim the application was not signed by the military governor, and therefore the area is not municipal land. Felicia Langer, representing Badawi, told the Israeli High Court that the authorities' decision is illegal. She explained that the authorities had destroyed a house in the area last year and intended to hand over the area to Kiryat Arba.

Hebron residents say that there is another house, under construction in the same area, which is also under threat of demoliton. The owner, Hussein Za'atari, was unavailable for comment.

LAND SHORTS

NO HOMES IN THE CAMP

GAZA — Refugees in Jabalia camp have received leaflets from the military authorities which announce it is now illegal to sell, rent or expand houses in the camp. Residents say it is an attempt to force them to leave their houses and to move to Israeli-established compounds between Beit Lahia and Jabalia, near Block S.

SYMBOLIC SETTLEMENT

JERUSALEM — Israeli sources report that 10 Israeli families have recently established a "symbolic settlement" in the Musrara quarter in Jerusalem, with the sympathy and support of the authorities and a kibbutz near west Jerusalem. The families say they will stay in the area until the Israeli authorities find housing for them and put an end to the housing crisis.

They add that they have repeatedly asked the government to find housing for them, but to no avail.

KAHANE CALLS FOR EXPULSION

TEL AVIV — Racist Rabbi Meir Kahane has said that Israel should follow the example of Nigeria. He made this statement in a letter he sent to Premier Menachem Begin, demanding the expulsion of Arabs from the country. Kahane called on Begin to draw up a plan to expel Arabs from the country and to pay "appropriate compensation."

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION HEDGING ITS POSITION ON SETTLEMENTS

By Ghassan Bishara
Washington DC Correspondent

Time Magazine ran an article last week about the settlements which are being erected in the West Bank in defiance of the Reagan administration and of others before it. **Time** quoted officials here expressing disenchantment with Israeli Prime Minister Begin's policies, which if continued, will put the West Bank beyond return to Arab sovereignty, according to some people. **Time** revealed that Begin's visit to the US, scheduled for next month, may be cancelled as a mark of disapproval.

State Department spokesman John Hughes denied that such ideas were being considered but when an official was asked when the visit would take place he replied, "It is up to the president," and the time, "is not yet set."

The official confirmed other reports that Lebanon rather than West Bank settlements was really the issue. The US, he said, basically wanted to send Begin a message that some positive results are necessary in the Lebanon-Israeli negotiations, before he comes to Washington. Reagan, it is believed, wants a confrontation with Begin on the "broader peace process" rather than on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Middle East envoy Philip Habib has been sent to speed up withdrawal talks. An official expressed some satisfaction with news from Khalde and Kiryat Shemona that an agenda was agreed upon and the first discussions of substance took place January 17. If a solution is perceived to be on the way then a date can be set for Begin to come to Washington, officials say.

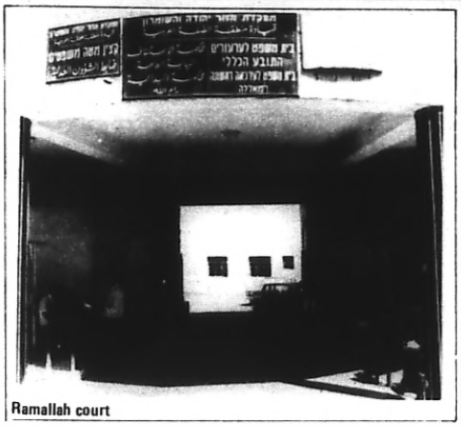
Begin Wants Reagan Plan Dead

As an unquestioned friend of Israel, Reagan issued his plan for a solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, September 1. He called on Israel to freeze all settlement activity in the occupied territories as a gesture which would grant his plan better than a 50-50 chance of success. An immediate confrontation developed: not between Reagan and the PLO, but between Reagan and Israel. Some US officials are believed to understand that a freeze on Israeli settlements are a prerequisite for Arab and Palestinian participation. Some are now saying that Israel also understood that, and thus in order to pre-empt such participation, aims to kill the plan by continuing to build more settlements.

In response to **Al Fajr's** questions about Israel's announcement to continue with more settlements, the State Department issued a stern statement on November 4. Spokesman Alan Romberg, reading from a prepared text, called Israel's announcement "most unwelcome . . . "we cannot understand why, at a time when we are actively seeking broader participation in the peace process, Israel persists in a pattern of activity which erodes the confidence of all, and most particularly the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza." He questioned Israel's "willingness to abide by the promise of resolution 242 — that territory will be exchanged for peace."

Israel, however, goes on building and planning settlements and other acts such as deporting professors and the requirement that those remaining sign a loyalty oath. This too has drawn criticism from the highest levels.

Most recently the US media carried news of an Israeli advertising campaign paid for by the Israeli government encouraging Israelis to move to settle "Judea and Samaria" and receive lucrative financial incentives. When the campaign was brought to the attention of the State Department another written statement was read. This time, the Israelis' actions were called "most unfortunate" rather than the "most unwelcome" of November 4. The US position, it was stated, is clear: settlements are an obstacle to peace, and the US called once again on Israel to stop them in the interest of peace. American officials in Washington do not really believe in private conversation, that Begin will freeze settlement. Yet no one is willing to predict US willingness to use leverage. Short of it, many believe the Reagan plan, like many previous ones, will be buried by Begin's bulldozers in the West Bank.



Ramallah court

'Civil Administration' Doubles West Bank Court Fees

Shlomo Eliya, head of the 'civil administration' in the West Bank, issued a military order to all courts in the West Bank doubling all fees, as of January 15.

The 18-page military order contains six kinds of tables: court fees, the law of the clerk of the court, the law concerning fees for inventions and concessions, the law concerning the register of trademarks and copyrights, the law of companies and the registry of companies.

The 'civil administration' authorities' order also applies to the pre-magistrates court, the magistrates court, appeals court, High Court of Justice, private courts dealing with settlement of conflicts among religious sects, the bailiff's departments and the office of the registrar.

Local lawyers explained the effects of this change. "According to the new regulations, for example, the applicant for a land dispute has to pay around JD 1500 in various kinds of fees, plus the lawyer's fees. Even if he wins the case, he will only get the money back after several years," Shukri Aboudi, a lawyer in Ramallah told **Al Fajr**. Fees on the total cost of a plot of land are raised in the new tables. The maximum fee is doubled from JD 120 to 240. There are many other examples. The court order fee has risen from JD 9 to 18, the clerk registry fee from JD 5 to 10 and the registry fee from 10 piasters to JD1. In the Israeli courts, the index schedule is applied and the fees remain fairly constant in foreign currency terms. "This makes litigation very cheap and easy to continue in Israeli court and very expensive and difficult in the West Bank courts," Aboudi told **Al Fajr**.

Jonathan Kuttab, co-director of Law in the Service of Man, the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, said that doubling fees "will increase the funds in the treasury of the state and weaken the litigation process in the West Bank."

A year ago the 'civil administration' doubled the land registration fee from one percent to four percent per metre and replaced it with a specific estimation decided on by an Israeli employee.

Jordanian Authorities Round Up Political Activists

The Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Jordan has issued an appeal to international organisations demanding they intervene to stop the campaign of arrests against nationalist and trade union figures in Jordan. A statement issued by the committee January 30 revealed that the Jordanian thorities recently began a wide-ranging campaign of arrests in several parts of Jordan. Scores have been held.

The CDDRJ said that those arrested included members of the general secretariat of the Federation for the Popular Forces in Jordan such as Mahmoud Ma'ayta, Hamdi Matar, Mahmoud Zu'bi and well-known militant nationalists, such as Bassam Hadadeen, Mahmoud Nawayseh, and Ahmad Saleh Musleh.

The statement added that the Jordanian authorities have recently expelled Iz al-Din Manasra, the well-known Palestinian poet, under the pretext that his presence in Jordan is "not desired."

"Jordan behaves contrary to the principles of the (UN) human rights declaration and even to the minimum rights available in Jordanian law . . . These repressive measures are against the claims released by the Jordanian government on the declaration of the general amnesty and the policy of releasing Palestinian prisoners from Jordanian jails."

The CDDRJ appealed to all international, democratic and humanitarian organisations to support "the struggle of the Jordanian masses to release the detainees."

Nafha Prisoners on Strike: Authorities Have Not Kept Promises

80 Palestinian prisoners at Nafha desert jail have continued their partial hunger strike throughout the week. The strike started January 22 to protest conditions and services at the prison. Relatives of prisoners and two of their lawyers held a press conference in East Jerusalem January 31 to outline the conditions at the Naqab desert prison and to explain reasons behind the protest.

Ali Qassem, brother of a Palestinian political prisoner held in Nafha, said the prisoners suffer from bad ventilation, inadequate and insufficient food, bad health conditions, cold quarters and insufficient space. "The prisoners, after exhausting all manner of negotiations with the prison authorities, have decided to eat only bread and drink water until their basic demands are met," he said. Qassem explained that the prisoners hoped that their appeal would get the proper attention without any life being lost, as was the case in July 1980 when two prisoners died as a result of forced feeding.

Muhammad Na'amneh, a Palestinian attorney who has clients among the Nafha prisoners, told reporters that the prison authorities refused to allow him entry to see his clients in the jail, four days after the start of the partial hunger strike. Lea Tsemel was able to enter the prison and see her clients the day before the press conference. She reported that the prisoners are eating bread and drinking water. She said each three prisoners get one loaf of bread daily. Tsemel said prisoners were going hungry because an agreement between the prisoners and prison authorities was not being honoured. Prisoners, she said, complain that only part of their rations are being delivered. She quoted examples of the meat ration which she said should be an 85 gram portion while prisoners have been receiving 50 grams of meat mixed with bread; an agreed upon 80 kgs of rice monthly turns out to be a mere 48 kgs, she said.

Prisoners said, through Tsemel, that they are not concerned whether the prison authorities in Nafha receive enough supplies to live up to their agreement. They said that the prison authority is receiving reduced food supplies from the army.

Attorney Tsemel told local and foreign journalists that the Nafha prison has been extremely cold this winter with the Palestinian prisoners not getting sufficient clothing. She said that the Palestinians get less clothing than political prisoners in other jails and less than Jewish prisoners in Nafha jail. She pointed out that the rooms of the wardens and cells of Jewish prisoners are supplied with electric heaters but Palestinians are kept without. Tsemel informed journalists that during her visit the jail warden told her that he has to keep an electric heater on all night because the electric heater in his office aquarium is unable to keep the fish warm enough.

On touring the prison facilities Tsemel discovered that the prisoners' mattresses had to be hung outside in the sun to dry because of humidity and dampness in the prison cells.

A press release distributed at the conference said that the authorities have reneged on other promises made since the 1980 strike. Palestinian prisoners have to eat on the floor because of the absence of tables and chairs. A promised exercise yard has never been constructed; natural light is not allowed in cells: all these were recommendations of the August 1980 Shmuel Eitan commission which investigated prisoners' complaints after the last hunger strike. Suggestions that food be improved and cooked in an oriental or Arab style have also been completely ignored. Books and newspapers are not freely avaliable, prisoners say.

Nafha prison was constructed as a high security prison for long-term political prisoners. Palestinian prisoners have vowed to continue their partial hunger strike until their basic demands are met.

STUDENTS' SOLIDARITY PROTESTS

Scores of Bir Zeit University students held a sit-in strike in the Jerusalem offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in solidarity with the prisoners of Nafha who started an anti-hunger-protest, January 23.

. . . And In Hebron

Eight days later students of the Hebron Polytechnic held a sit-in strike at the local ICRC offices. The students handed ICRC officials a letter demanding that international organisations intervene to support the prisoners in their struggle.

MILITARY ARREST DOCTOR FOR "INCITING AGAINST VILLAGE LEAGUES."

The Israeli military authorities arrested a physician from Tulkarm January 30 and accused him of "inciting official village heads in the area to withdraw from the Village Leagues." Dr. Fayyad al-Fayyad, was also accused of drafting a memorandum, which mukhtars and village council heads in the district signed and presented to the Israeli authorities.

Local people say that during the past few weeks, the Israeli authorities have pressured a number of mukhtars and heads of village councils to establish a branch of the Village Leagues. A few agreed but later withdrew, even before the branch was established.

Fayyad's house and clinic were thoroughly searched during the raid which preceded his arrest. His lawyers, Felicia Langer and Fathi Shbeitah, appealed to the Tulkarm area military court for his release on bail.

(Translation: Al Talia, 3. 2. 83)

A Universal Amnesty for All Prisoners of Conscience

THOUSANDS of men and women are in prison throughout the world solely because of their political or religious beliefs. Others are held because of their colour or ethnic origin. These are Prisoners of Conscience – none has used or advocated violence.

NONE of these people should be in prison. The fact that they have been arrested and punished because of their beliefs or origins is an affront to humanity. They should be freed unconditionally.

WE CALL FOR A UNIVERSAL AMNESTY FOR ALL PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

WE BELIEVE that such an amnesty, backed by the United Nations and declared by all governments, is possible. It would give effect to the moral and legal principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

WE ISSUE this call in the belief that there is an indissoluble link between human rights and peace. An amnesty for all prisoners of conscience would be an unparalleled act in the building of international confidence and the promotion of fundamental freedoms. It would advance respect for human rights everywhere, securing thereby the foundations for peace, freedom and peace.

Name Address

This appeal extends to all those adopted as prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International and to those falling within its definition of such prisoners. The appeal will be presented to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations and to all Heads of State.

Peace Now demonstration, near Hebron, May 1979

Israeli Peace Groups Meet To Form Broad Front

Members of several Israeli peace organisations decided to form a broader front "against the war and for a Palestinian-Israeli peace," January 25. Few details of the agreement are available, but sources close to the peace movement predict that joint activities and protests will start soon.

Leading cadres from the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, the Committee Against the War in Lebanon, the Committee for Solidarity With Bir Zeit University, Peace Now, the soldiers movement "There is a Limit" (Yesh Gvul), the Israeli Communist Party – Rakah, and others, met in a private home in Tel Aviv for intense consultations on the political and ideological differences between them.

According to reports, they agreed in the first instance to initiate activities to defend the right of Israelis to meet the leaders of the PLO and "to protest against the anti-democratic practices of the Israeli government."

None of those who participated in the meeting would make comments to **Al Fajr**. Most said they expected regular meetings to thrash out differences between them and would not be making public statements for several weeks.

Clearly, however, some peace activists see themselves as forging a new political force in Israel.

Several of those who attended the discussions told **Al Fajr** that Israeli public opinion had gone through major changes since the start of the war. This happened, they said, because the steadfastness of the Palestinians destroyed Israeli claims of military superiority and people realised that the Likud government coalition and the Labour Alignment opposition had "fooled the public." The high number of Israeli casualties and the continuation of the war also has had an effect, some said.

Officials of the organisations involved were clearly embarrassed that news of the meeting had been leaked. Several stressed to **Al Fajr** that talks were "informal and not binding." The Peace Now members were said to be "dissidents" and at the meeting without the knowledge of the leadership.

One participant at the Tel Aviv gathering told **Al Fajr** later, "I'm sure the embarrassment caused by the publicity will mean no similar meetings take place."

PLO CONTACTS ATTACKED

In the Knesset, January 26, members of both the government and opposition attacked recent contacts between three Israelis and PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat. Labour MK Michael Bar Zohar said during the debate: "Arafat is similar to Hitler," and demanded such contacts be outlawed.

Meir Wilner of the DFPE countered with allegations that Israeli rulers had met and co-operated with "professional killers" from the Phalange leadership to President Mobuto of Zaire, and with others in Latin America.

Wilner added that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is the political leadership of a national liberation movement, which has "a just aim – that is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and a lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace."

US Also Knew About Sabra / Shatila

After a controversial story in the London **Sunday Times**, it has now been revealed that the United States knew of the Sabra and Shatila massacre as early as September 16 and did nothing to stop it. According to the **Times**, US intelligence agents intercepted a cable from Israeli military command in Beirut to staff headquarters in Tel Aviv. The message reported that 300 "terrorists and civilians" had been killed by the Phalangists by that evening.

The cable arrived in Washington on the Thursday night, but US officials have admitted that nothing was done about it until the next day. On the Friday, US officials say, US Middle East Ambassador Morris Draper "raised the issue" with Israeli representatives in Beirut, and officials on his staff contacted the Israeli foreign ministry in Jerusalem.

The same day, according to present reports, staff of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee were made aware of the massacre. But it has also been revealed that when under secretary of state for political affairs, Lawrence Eagelberger, appeared before the committee that afternoon, none of the members raised the issue with him although at least one of them had been informed.

PLO ALSO WARNED

NEW YORK, AFP – In a statement for the PLO delegation at the UN, it was stated that the PLO observor had informed the Security Council on September 17 that a very dangerous situation was evolving in Sabra and Shatila camps. The delegation said that it was surprised to hear of the US denial of **The Sunday Times** report which stated that the US knew of the massacre on September 17.

The US State Department has denied the reports and insists that it had first knowledge of the massacre on September 18.

The PLO delegation said that Zuhdi Tarazi announced on September 17 that there was a very dangerous situation in the Sabra and Shatila camps . . . "since there have been reports that Saad Haddad's milita men have entered the camps . . . and this dangerous development may lead to a mass killing of civilian Palestinians who are still living in the camps."

The PLO statement continued that Zuhdi Tarazi had pointed out the fact that there were arrests and that the arrestees were being taken to the sports stadium . . . "and what is more dangerous . . . is the discovery of corpses on the sea shore in the area of Uzai which could be the bodies of those arrestees."

(Translation Al Fajr, Al Shaab, 2 2 83 Jerusalem Post, 31 1 83)

According to official casualty figures, 10 Israeli have been killed and 106 wounded in Lebanon since January 12. Official figures published in **The Jerusalem Post**, February 3, show that the present official casualty toll is 466 dead and 2,567 wounded. The last time figures were released by the Israeli army, on January 12, the death toll was 456 and 2,461 wounded.

Freij, Leagues Release Their "Peace" Plans

Both Elias Freij, mayor of Bethlehem, and Muhammad Nasser of the Hebron Village League, handed over semi-clandestine 'peace documents' to the foreign press this week. Neither caused much reaction in the occupied territories.

According to reports from international news agencies, Freij told the Jordanian newspaper **Al Rai** that, last week, he had given Egyptian President Husni Mubarak a document signed by 200 West Bank Palestinians outlining some peace proposals. Freij is currently on a trip to Jordan and Egypt at the invitation of the regimes there. According to sources in the West Bank the document concerned is probably the 'Palestinian Peace Document' drawn up in Jerusalem on November 8. The document calls for the PLO to recognise Israel and UN security council resolutions 242 and 338.

Freij's document has never been officially published. Details of its were made public last autumn after a copy was leaked to the foreign press corps here. Reaction at that time was angry. Senior Palestinian officials outside the country condemned it and there were reports of angry scenes in West Bank towns when emmisaries from the Freij group arrived to solicit signatures.

In what is believed to be a reference to the same document, Hikmat al-Masri, head of the board of trustees of Al Najah University, Nablus, told Israel Radio, January 29, that he had initiated a document which had been signed by 200 Palestinians. A senior Palestinian personality in the West Bank told journalists this week that since November many of the original signatories, including some of those who attended the clandestine drafting meeting, have withdrawn their support.

At the same time, the Israeli press reports that the Village Leagues are to form a political party. Muhammad Nasser told **The Jerusalem Post**, February 2, that he will be calling a conference three days before the next Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers to launch a pro-Israeli party in the occupied territories. Nasser said a new 'covenant' will be unveiled and accepted with acclaim by 40 West Bank and 20 Gaza Strip delegates February 12.

The 'covenant,' according to the **Post**, will contain a repudiation of the 1974 Rabat summit resolution calling the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Indirectly, it calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state. Such a state, the Israeli-financed and armed Leagues say, should have "special relations" with Jordan. In the state, the proposed covenant states, Israeli settlers will be allowed to stay and "enjoy the same rights as Arabs in Israel."

Nasser's covenant was totally ignored by West Bankers.

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 144, February 4, 1983

Number of original articles submitted to censor	36
Number of articles totally censored out	5
Number of articles mutilated beyond use	1
Number of articles returned	1
Number of articles partially censored but used	2
Number of articles passed	27

shorts

SHAKA'A'S UNESCO APPEAL

Bassam Shaka'a, deposed mayor of Nablus, has sent an appeal to UNESCO to intervene and stop the campaigns of arrests against students in Nablus. Shaka'a said that secondary school students are regularly summoned to military headquarters in Nablus.

GUERRILLAS TRIED

The military court in Lydda opened the trial of Othman Ali Hamdan, 31, and his brother Omar Ali Hamdan, from Sawieh village in the Ramallah area. The two brothers are charged with belonging to a Palestinian organisation planning to kidnap an Israeli pilot and placing explosive material in an Israeli bus in which three people were killed and 17 others injured.

The Dawn
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Publisher:
Paul A. Ajlouny
Editor-in-chief:
H. S. Siniora
Managing editor:
Sam'an Khoury

Hatem al-Ta'ee Street
Tel: (02)281035
POB 19315
East Jerusalem

Telex nos:
Jerusalem: 26467 omar il
Washington: 64677 omar uw

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NO WAY OUT

A minimum of 32,000 dunums of land belonging to Palestinian residents of the occupied territories were confiscated this week. We are now reaching the stage where in certain areas the Israeli authorities are even grabbing the tiniest piece of land as long as this order serves the master plan.

Rightful owners run to lawyers and to courts bringing along their deeds and if they are lucky they get an order nisi immediately stopping Israeli bulldozers from sabotaging the cultivated land until the dispute is solved. But in the long run, and even if the court rules in favor of the Palestinian owners, the military uses its power: "security reasons."

Owners speculate, and in fact know, that land-grabbing is one way of expelling Palestinians from their country. Meanwhile, Meir Kahane, an Israeli fanatic who feels proud of his hatred of Palestinians, was fascinated by the Nigerian government's move to expel a million 'illegal residents' there. He immediately wrote a letter to Menachem Begin asking him to follow Nigeria's suit and expel Palestinians.

Israeli officials share Kahane's feelings but prefer to do the dirty work in stages: these steps may be labelled deportation, land grab, clearing camp sites or signing an anti-PLO pledge.

However, Palestinians have learned the lesson and in the words of one who lost his livelihood in a land grab this week: "We are staying here, even if the cost is death."

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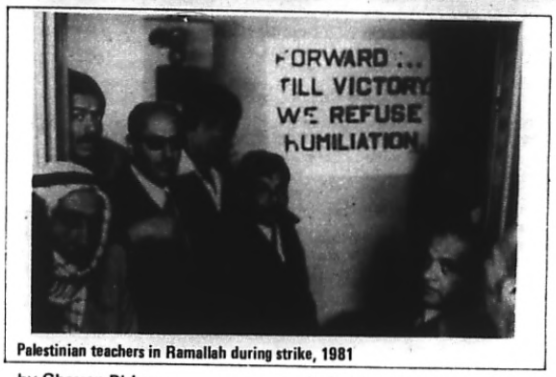
Contemplating the Future at Start of 18th Year

Justice Motivates Palestinian March



Palestinian teachers in Ramallah during strike, 1981

by Ghassan Bishara
Our Washington DC Correspondent

'What is there to celebrate? is one question which has been asked of people presently marking the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian struggle. To those who think like this, I answer, 'there has never been good reason for the Arabs and the Palestinians to celebrate.'

But in the Washington metropolitan area, January 23, a celebration did take place at the Knights of Columbus Lodge. The 400 people attending displayed high spirits and morale.

The audience included not only Palestinians but Arabs from every Arab country and many Americans. The atmosphere at the event was exhuberant and defiant. Speakers were well aware what Israel had wished for them and their movement back in Lebanon and the fact that despite that their leaders were intact and they were there was good reason to celebrate. Other speakers asserted that not only were Israel's goals not achieved but that in some aspects Israel was defeated.

One is tempted to ask what it is that makes people such as the Palestinians continue their march despite the obstacles against them? No easy answer is available, but talking to any Palestinians at the event, 'justice' seemed to be the main motivating force. Palestinians believe that a wrong has been done them and they are determined to right it. And based on their background and experience, they say that their solution, which will bring justice, will not be at the expense of others.

Within Palestinian circles there seems to be the beginning of a revival of the idea that a secular state in the whole of Palestine will replace the two-state solution currently on the table as the main focus of struggle. Palestinian intellectuals agree that since the two-state solution is as hard to achieve as secular democracy, the promotion of the latter is probably better.

With the 18th anniversary of the march, a process of soulsearching seems to have begun, considering the new reality in which Palestinians find themselves. The issue on everyone's mind was the so-called Reagan plan for "peace in the Middle East." Should it be rejected, as it most certainly would have been before the Lebanon war, or should it be given serious copsideration? Unlike the Camp David plan, which was rejected outright by virtually all Palestinians, this time a US president is being given a hearing.

By and large Palestinians of both camps seem to be well aware of the need for national unity. They agree that whatever differences exist between them debate should be conducted against a background of unity.

The Director of the Palestine Information Office in Washington, Hassan Abd al-Rahman, presented the community at the Knights of Columbus Hall with the present PLO view. Rahman paid tribute to the Palestinian fighters, marytrs, imprisoned, those living under Israeli occupation and in the world at large. The beginning of the revolution 18 years ago, Rahman said, "is a monumental occasion with an historical impact on the present as well as the future of our people and the region." With it the Palestinians ended the phase of "quantity," he said, and initiated the stage in which the Palestinians made "qualitative changes" in their conditions and objective reality.

The PLO, Rahman continued, not only united the Palestinian people, but also "articulated a political programme" now being implemented through struggle. The PLO, he said, provided a "direction and purpose to the sacrifices" of the Palestinian people and to other nationalist forces. Rahman, though not directly mentioning any Arab regime, was critical of those governments who left the Palestinian people alone "in the darkest and most critical moments of our history . . ." Rahman said that the threat from Israel threatens not just the Palestinians, but the whole of the Arab world. Rahman, to the applause of the audience, thanked Palestinian allies from Cyprus, Greece, the non-aligned movement and the Islamic world.

Rahman called the post-Beirut era the beginning of a new stage of the conflict. He called on the Palestinians to unite in the face of this stage in which the US is the full partner with Israel. Thus, he said, much effort will have to be expended to have an impact on American society in order to achieve the Palestinian right to self-determination, national independence and the right to return.

Other speakers also called for Palestinain unity to gear up the Palestinian people to face Israel's "wars of annihilation." The crowd reacted with loud and prolonged applause when the name of Majid Abu Sharar, director of the PLO information office who was assassinated in Rome two years ago, was mentioned.

In the name of the supporters of the Lebanese National Movement, Shouk Rafi said a "war of genocide" is being waged in the Shouf "by the same people responsible for Sabra, Shatila and Tel al-Za'atar." He was also highly critical of Arab regimes who stood by while Palestinians and Lebanese were bearing the brunt of Israeli attacks.

Americans attending the celebrations found it hard to understand the audience's high spirits. A Palestinian present was heard to explain to an American interlocutor, "Our will has not been broken. Israeli leaders can save many lives if they're convinced that our will will not be broken."

OPINION

Al Fajr invites our readers to submit letters, opinions and articles. Contributions must be signed, but names can be withheld upon request.

Two-and-a-half Years Later:

Why There's No Break in The Mayors' Car Bombing Case

by Robert Friedman

No single incident has so galvanised Palestinian Arab opposition to Israeli rule as the terrorist attacks two and a half years ago that left mayors Bassam Shaka'a of Nablus and Karim Khalaf of Ramallah grievously wounded by car bombs. Now new evidence has begun to emerge that the investigation by Israeli authorities was stymied, if not covered up. Knesset member Shulamit Aloni (Citizens Rights Movement), invoking parliamentary immunity, has charged that the government stalled its investigation because the suspects are Jewish. Aloni agreed to discuss the mayors' case despite pressure from the prime minister's office not to talk to the press. She explained that Israel's invasion of Lebanon, coupled with Begin's annexationist policies on the West Bank, compelled her to publicise her suspicions that the government is involved in a cover-up.

Soon after the attacks on Shaka'a and Khalaf on June 2,1980, Aloni received the names of six Jewish right-wing suspects from Davar's veteran West Bank correspondent, Danny Rubinstein, who has an intelligence background. The suspects were members of two fanatical right-wing messianic settlers movements, Gush Emunim and Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach party. At the time, several of them were yeshiva students at Kiryat Arba and Beit El, predominantly religious settlements on the West Bank. Rubinstein was persuaded by Israel's internal security service, the Shin Bet, not to publish his information because it would undermine the investigation. Aloni, however, sent a letter to Mr Begin asking why the suspects hadn't been apprehended. He replied that the police were conducting a thorough investigation.

Aloni thinks not. She said that during a meeting several months ago with the security officers in charge of the investigation the Shin Bet confirmed that the list she received from Rubinstein some two years before was accurate. "But the Shin Bet told me the Jews responsible are part of a close-knit group that until now has been impenetrable. They told me that they don't have enough evidence to pick up anyone on charges... But I know how the Israeli police work. They have never lacked the means to make Arabs talk...The mentality of the prime minister's office is that it doesn't matter when Arabs are killed."

The most the government has seen fit to do so far — and this comes more than two years after the attacks — was to order the arrests, last October, of two prominent Gush Emunim activists (and residents of Kiryat Arba) for "knowingly destroying evidence" that may have linked Jews to the bombings. According to the charge sheet, a Jerusalem electrician found a sophisticated Israeli army booby-trap bomb, similar to those used against the mayors, behind a fuse-box in the office of the Kiryat Arba town council where he had been installing new electric lines. The bomb was wrapped in newspapers dated only days after the attacks. The electrician took the device to Kiryat Arba's security officer, Shalom Rosenthal, who, together with Zeev Friedman, former deputy chairman of the council, allegedly destroyed it. Yehuda Ridder, former member of the Stern Gang, and Shalom Shimon, Kiryat Arba's security officer at the time of the attacks on Shaka'a and Khalaf, were also detained, but subsequently released.

The Men in the Way

It is by now no secret that Begin is single-mindedly committed to retaining sovereignty over the West Bank. Contending that the territory is part of the "holy inheritance" of lands given by God to the Jews, his government has helped the Jewish right-wing messianic movement, Gush Emunim (Block of the Faith), to set up settlements, often on illegally expropriated Arab lands. Therefore, because Begin supports Gush Emunim's goal of Judaising the West Bank, he is unwilling to deal harshly with the movement, although it has evolved a conscious policy of violent opposition to Palestinian self-determination on the West Bank.

Yet despite this history of violence, the movement boasts important enclaves of support in the ultra-right-wing Tehiya party, which it helped to found, in the National Religious party, where it began as a pressure group in 1973, in the Likud, in military circles and in the hawkish wing of the Labour party. In fact, Gush Emunim's first settlement was established by the Labour government in the summer of 1974 at Camp Horon near the Arab village of Beit Nuba the day after Yitzhak Rabin became prime minister. Today there are some 30 West Bank Gush Emunim settlements with about 6,000 settlers.

For both the government and the settlers, the main obstacle to transforming the West Bank into a biblically rationalised "bantustan" was a group of democratically elected, pro-PLO West Bank mayors, who, together with labour and religious leaders, organised coordinated resistance to Begin's settlement scheme and the Camp David accords. The leader, Bassam Shaka'a, was the object of fierce Israeli condemnation. General Danny Matt called Shaka'a "the PLO's commander in the territories" and tried to deport him in 1979, but the Israeli High Court overturned the order. Shaka'a's death warrant probably was signed on May 2, 1980,when Palestinian gunmen shot and killed six Jewish settlers in Hebron. Though the military government did not move against Shaka'a, it immediately deported the mayors of Hebron and Halhoul, Fahd Qawasmi and Mohammed Milhem.

On May 14, **Ha'aretz** quoted Israeli security officials as saying there was evidence that Gush Emunim was organised to conduct terrorist attacks on leading West Bank Arabs. Shaka'a's name was prominent. On June 2, one month after the Hebron killings and at the close of the traditional 30-day day of Jewish mourning, Shaka'a and Khalaf were maimed by car bombs. Al-Bireh Mayor Ibrahim Tawil escaped injury after having been warned by an army officer to stay away from his car. A grenade rigged to Tawil's garage door blinded an Israeli Druze soldier. The Kach party spokesman Yosi Dayan announced at a press conference that the bombings were in retaliation for the Hebron murders. Yisrael Harel, editor of the Gush Emunim journal, **The Point**, praised the act. The prime minister denounced the bombings and promised a full investigation.

The night of the bombings, **Ha'aretz** received a phone call from a man speaking fluent, accent-free Hebrew, who claimed that the Sons of Zion, an unknown terrorist group, was responsible for the attacks. Another caller told **Ma'ariv** that the attacks were in response to the killing of the six Jewish settlers in Hebron. On June 4, **Ha'aretz**, citing intelligence sources, reported that the suspects were believed to be Jewish extremists who were acting in three teams of four, using sophisticated Israel armed forces equipment. News about the investigation resurfaced in August, when **Washington Star** correspondent David Halevy, a reserve colonel in the Israeli army, reported that the chief of Shin Bet, Avraham Achituv, had resigned because the prime minister was obstructing the investigation. Halevy's report in the **Star** said that Achituv had informed the prime minister of a Gush Emunim plan to attack the mayors several months before it occurred. Moreover, Halevy said that after the bombings Begin denied the security service chief's requests to arrest the suspects, to tap phones, to intercept mail and to infiltrate certain West Bank settlements. Following Halevy's report, the Shin Bet warned Israeli newsmen not to meddle in the investigation. From that time on stories about the affair were routinely censored.

A Murky Relationship

Shin Bet's problems in coping with Jewish extremism are largely because it is organised only to combat Arab terrorism in Israel and in the occupied territories. Until recently, it didn't have a Jewish desk. However, Jewish terrorism plagued the Shin Bet throughout the 1950s. In early days of statehood there were many Irgunists, Sternists and religious fanatics who could not stomach a small, relatively secular, social democratic Jewish state. Since coming to power in 1977, the leaders of the Likud party, many of whom were members of the pre-state, right-wing terrorist underground, have filled key posts in the government and the security services with their authoritarian-minded comrades from the blood and fire days.

Kahane's questionable activities pre-date his relationship with the Jewish Defence League, which he formed in 1968. For example, in 1961, he and a boyhood friend, Joseph Churba, who later became a top-level, foreign policy advisor to President Reagan after stints at the Pentagon and with airforce intelligence, formed a think tank called the Consultant Research Association. Among other projects, they infiltrated the John Birch Society for the FBI in 1963, and in 1965, with FBI funds, they set up the Fourth of July Movement , which created cells on American college campuses in support of the Vietnam war.

When Kahane moved to Israel in 1971, he was offered a "safe" seat by both Begin's Gahal party and the National Religious party, which he turned down to remain independent. Since then he has been arrested more than 100 times for charges ranging from sedition to conspiracy to commit murder. His antics have alienated him from most Israelis, including the parties that once offered him a job. Does Kahane know who tried to kill the mayors? "Of course," he told me in Jerusalem last October. "They are nice Jewish boys. But if I were prime minister the attacks never would have happened. The mayors would have walked to Jordan on their own two feet—at gun point!"

Despite the murky relationship between government officials and Jewish extremists, few in Israel think the security service or the government plotted with right-wing Jews to assassinate the West Bank mayors. A former intelligence officer told me, however, that the professional expertise needed to carry out the attacks indicates more than a little official blindness. The mayors' homes, offices and family members were under constant Israeli surveillance at the time of the attacks. How, he asked, was it possible to penetrate Israeli security, plant car bombs and make a getaway without official acquiescence? Most Israeli journalists close to the case think that it is plausible that the government and the Shin Bet became involved in a cover-up after the event.

The truth about the West Bank bombings may never be known. Bassam Shaka'a's lawyer, Felicia Langer, has charged that the evidence has already been destroyed. Shaka'a told me that he was never even questioned by the Israeli authorities. "There was no investigation; how can the government investigate itself?" Some, including Shulamit Aloni, believe that the government's reluctance to investigate the bombings is an extension of its policy to break Palestinian nationalism on the West Bank. Moreover, as Aloni said, it would be hard for the Begin government to jail a Jew for attempting to kill Shaka'a — especially if an investigation uncovered links between Jewish extremists and one or more former government officials, as is believed to be the case.

The Israeli public was largely indifferent to the fate of Shaka'a and Khalaf following the attacks on their lives. Shaka'a, an uncompromising opponent of Israeli rule, was generally despised in Israel, as are most Palestinian West Bank leaders. Therefore, there was no indignant Israeli public to pressure the government to conduct a full-scale inquiry. The press, for its part, was shackled by censorship and the fear of right-wing retribution. Some Israeli journalists have said privately that the press's courageous day-to-day reporting of the Beirut massacre, which made an official inquiry inevitable, was in a way an atonement for not pushing for a similar inquiry into the West Bank mayors' affair.

From: Middle East International
January 20, 1983

Sheikh Hassan

Surviving 40 Years In Prison

by Awad Abdel Fattah

In one of his relatives' houses in Abu Dis village sits Sheikh Hassan, an old man with a long white beard and bent back. When I first met him he was seated on a bed just three days after he finished 40 years of complete isolation from the outside world.

The complete details of Sheikh Hassan's ordeal are shrouded in mystery. He is withdrawn and incommunicative, especially with outsiders. But his relatives have managed to piece together much of the story. Sheikh Hassan's full name is: Hassan Muhammad Abdullah Lawi al-Labadi. In 1942, he was sentenced to life by the British mandatory authorities, after he stabbed a British officer to death outside al-Aqsa. He was incarcerated until January 19, 1983 when he was released at the request of his only son.

Sheikh Hassan, relatives say, tried to prevent two British officers from entering the mosque in pursuit of a group of Palestinian revolutionaries who sought refuge there after a confrontation with the occupation authorities.

Sheikh Hassan, now in his 70s, did not move or change in his posture when we entered. We wondered whether he was the same person who had aroused our interest and curiousity when we first heard the story. He was calmly and quietly drinking his coffee, and answered our greeting indifferently. Apparently, the long years of the prison have left their mark on him.

Conversing with him was difficult. Without the intervention of his relatives and especially his only son, who has only lately come from Jordan especially to meet him father, we could not extract any information about him. Continued isolation as well as his advanced age have had their effect on his memory and ability to speak continuously and clearly.

Besides this he does not trust anybody. He has told his son things which he refused to repeat to us and pretended that he did not know or remember. Apparently, he is still afraid of the authorities.

He even refuses to believe that he is now among his relatives and son. His son Muhammad told us that his father did not recognize al-Aqsa and that until now he "does not believe us that he is in Jerusalem."

Sheikh Hassan, however, answered some of his son's questions in our presence, in connection with his life before he was jailed. "I used to teach Islamic religion . . . Arabic language . . . and math."

He remembers almost all the villages in Palestine where he used to teach and serve as Imam (religious leader). Among them al-Ram, al-Breij (Hebron), Barfilia (Ramle), Sarafand (near Haifa) . . . etc. He used to go to these villages at the request of the population and receive money for teaching. He remembers all the prominent Palestinian leaders who played an active role against the British occupation and the Zionist gangs, such as Iz al-Din al-Qassam, and others who were executed by the British.

According to his son, who remembers a few things about him before he was imprisoned, Sheikh Hassan had been arrested twice and interrogated by the British occupation authorities. His son confirms that Sheikh Hassan was accused at that time of inciting people against the British occupation through his religious sermons.

His Life in Prison

In the middle of the conversation, Sheikh Hassan started to make strange movements with his hands and to mumble for about two minutes. His son explained that it was a conduct acquired in prison. "I think it is a form of worship he used as a release from the effects of the loneliness, his son said. Then Sheikh Hassan stood up and acted as if he was Imam in a mosque, and led evening prayers in a loud voice.

It is known that Sheikh Hassan remained in Acre prison from 1942 to 1967. Then he was transferred to a home for the retarded in Pardes Hanna township near Hadera. His son told us that after 1948 until 1967, he and his family lost contact with the father. All attempts made by his son to get the Red Cross to intervene during the few years after the establishment of Israel were fruitless. "In fact we lost all hope that my father was still alive," he said "and only after the 1967 war when entrance to Israel became available, my sister travelled to Acre to ask about him."

One of the mysteries of Sheikh Hassan's case is what happened to him in 1948 as other prisoners were released when the British left Palestine. It is also confusing why he remained in Acre when it was turned into a mental hospital by the Israelis in the '50s.

Muhammad, his son, went to Pardes Hanna in 1968 to look for his father. "I recognized him from his voice, as he was calling for prayer," he said, "but when I told him I was his son, he called me a liar."

His son and relatives also wonder why the Israeli authorities put Sheikh Hassan in a centre for the retarded. He is neither mentally nor physically retarded. But it was in Pardes Hanna that he remained until two months ago when he was taken to another home for retarded in Jerusalem, following several demands by his family to the Israeli ministry of health.

"We wanted to give my father more care," his son said. He added that his father was not given minimum care and that he was left with old clothes for a long time. "What kind of state is this?" he wondered.

Sheikh Hassan spent all his prison life in isolation. He was not, he has said, given anything to read. This was especially hard on "an educated and respectable notable," said his son. Why didn't the British impose a death sentence on Sheikh Hassan in accordance with British law? Why did the Israelis keep him in prison after 1948? No one has found an answer. It is known that the Israelis prepared Sheikh Hassan to be expelled to Jordan in 1951. This was turned up by an Arab official who went through the Sheikh's file at the request of his son. Why he was not expelled, despite signing the order, is another question as yet unanswered.

Some of his relatives believe that the act was politically motivated. Fadwa Labadi, Sheikh Hassan's niece, told **Al Fajr**, that the family has appointed a lawyer to follow the case through and find out the facts.

Nazareth Education Society Sets Up Infrastructure for Arab University

The Society for the Development of Education, based in Nazareth, has begun a programme of establishing educational and research centres within the 1948 borders as part of a possible infrastructure for a Palestinian university. Last year the SDE was refused a license to start a university by the Israeli Council for Higher Education.

It was announced this week that the seven-member academic committee of the SDE recently rented a 200 square metre building in Taibeh, the Triangle, as a research centre for Palestinian folklore. The Taibeh local council has given SDE a nine dunum plot of land to build a research centre. Announcing the news, the SDE academic committee said it has also started work on a nursing college in Nazareth. They applied a month ago to a private hospital in Nazareth for cooperation, a spokesman said.

Dr. Abd al-Salam Abd al-Ghani, a biochemist from Nahf who teaches at Bir Zeit University and is a member in the academic committee, told **Al Fajr** the SDE is planning to set up centres in different villages in the Galilee and the Triangle as part of the infrastructure for a proposed Arab university. Abd al-Ghani added that the SDE has not given up pressing for a license to start a university.

Dov Koren, an official in the Israeli ministry of education, predicted that the activists in SDE will continue their attempts to get a license "but our decision is final," he told **Haaretz** January 30.

In February 1982 the SDE's 1981 application was turned down. The reason for the refusal was that, "there was no need for an Arab university because there are enough universities in Israel."

Dr. Abd al-Ghani told **Al Fajr** that the CHE did not give any scientific reason. "We even gave them the names of 38 PhDs and MAs who would teach at the Arab university.

Abd al-Ghani notified **Al Fajr** that the Israeli authorities are planning now to set up a university for West Bank settlers. "If the university of settlers is set up, then the decision to ban us from setting up a university is, in the precise sense, political," said Abd al-Ghani.

Several members of the academic committee told **Al Fajr** that every Israeli university usually reflects the needs of a different educational and cultural community that exists within Jewish society. For example, members of the SDE said, Bar Ilan in Tel Aviv takes mainly religious students and Oranim college in Haifa serves kibbutz society.

Dr. Abd al-Ghani said that there is a "desperate need" for an Arab university to absorb the 2000 Palestinians graduating from Israeli secondary schools each year.

SHORT

Palestinian Child Drowns

The corpse of a Palestinian child was found in a trench excavated for the foundations of a new building in Ras Amoud January 28. Samir Halawani, 8, had left home in Bethany for school in Ras Amoud four days earlier and not returned. His family notified the police and conducted a thorough search of the area.

According to Samir's schoolmates, the boy drowned while playing near the rain-filled trench. They said five boys attempted to jump into the foundations thinking it was shallow. Four of them gave up, but Samir apparently fell in and drowned.

Price, Not Biblical Prophesy Motivates New Israeli Settlers

by Jamal Najjab

"This is my first choice because other places in Jerusalem are so costly."

"I wanted to live here because it's beautiful open country, but basically it was because of the price."

"It's beautiful. Although, when I bought my home the price was the main reason."

"It's cheap!"

These responses seemed to be the over-all satisfied consensus of why 800 families are now residing in Ma'ale Adumim, one of the Israeli government's new trend in suburban settlements. However, not every one is content with the housing project's location – the West Bank.

Inexpensive housing is what attracts the mostly young homesteaders to the mountainous area outside East Jerusalem near Bethany and Abu Dis. Since early last fall, Israeli families have been moving into the condominium-like complexes as fast as the contractor can finish them – all with government incentive and blessing. One woman stated that "nowhere else in Israel" could she find a three-bedroom apartment the mortgage on which is only IS3000 per-month.

Commuter Settlement

Ma'ale Adumim, like the other settlements of suburbia, is most unlike the Gush Emunim settlements of the past. The Gush Emunim saw their settlements and their inhabitants as symbols of the foretold biblical prophecies. They also promoted their settlements as a first defense, "if Israel was attacked from the East." Their strong belief in fundamental Zionism motivated the small communities, usually comprising 40 families, to live in the West Bank (or Judea and Samaria as they refer to it) in well-guarded, fenced-in compounds. Some survived by farming or working in small factories but most got salaries from the government as 'security officers,' teachers, council heads or other bureaucratic positions.

The settlements of the 1980s like Ma'ale Adumim have no deep religious significance. There are no high fences or machine-gun carrying occupants to be found; nothing seems to have been readied in case of an attack on the settlement itself, let alone the region.

One woman said, "I don't feel safe, but only because I worry about the burglar or rapist. I don't ever think of it being dangerous because of military or terrorist attack." Nor does the compound contain any type of manufacturing plant for settlers to feel as though they were "working the land as their historical ancestors." Instead, with Ma'ale Adumim only 15 kilometers from West Jerusalem, the majority of its residents are employed outside its boundaries.

"It's wonderful for my husband who is a mechanic in Jerusalem," another woman said. "It's only 15 minutes from his work."

The buildings which have been incorporated into the design of the settlement install the feeling of a carefree lifestyle that could be found in any residential outskirts of a major American or European city. Ma'ale Adumim is made up of rows and rows of connected homes of different sized, up-right oblong boxes with assorted shaped windows, topped with slanted and flat roofs.

'Bible City'

Apart from private dwellings there are municipality buildings, schools, day-care centers, kindergartens, a large multi-level shopping mall (which is still under construction) and in the near future there will be a park surrounding an ancient water system and a mosque. Ma'ale Adumim seems so stable and secure that the privately owned G-and-C "Israeli Studios for Film and Television Inc," is planning a 320 dunum, US $10 million-plus complex complete with "Hollywood-like studio", 200,000 seat ampitheatre and "Bible City" which in a way will be modeled after Universal Studio's "Movie Land."

Government Subsidy

Like all colonies in the West Bank since 1967, Ma'ale Adumim could not exist without financial aid from the Israeli government. However, the Likud government has adopted a new approach to filling the West Bank with Israelis. "There is a shift in policy from rural settlements to urban settlements," Ibrahim Mattar, a Palestinian expert on settlements, told **Al Fajr**, "Colonies like Ma'ale Adumim are no longer based on ideology, but on pure economical reasoning. The government has learned that spacious luxury-living within easy access of the city is far more appealing to the average Israeli than to be forced in to self-sacrifice in an isolated rugged environment in the name of Zionism. With this knowledge, the government has become extremely aggressive in its attempt to Judaise the West Bank overnight. The government has begun its scheme by offering proposed construction sites to speculators for rockbottom prices; then to create an even more smooth flowing operation it has provided financial aid in the actual building of facilities such as roads, schools, parks and hooking up of water and electricity. All at the state's expense."

In turn, the cost is passed on to the prospective home buyers, along with easily attainable low interest mortgage and loans. The government is supplying the G-and-C studio project with US $6 million, 35 percent of it in direct loans."

The suburban colonists are buying land and home, with a new surge of optimism. The families who once thought they could never own a home in the near future are now finding the money for the small down payment with little difficulty. And the would-be and longtime speculators now view the West Bank as an open and easy market. As one man who recently migrated to Israel from California stated, "I'm unemployed. I have my degree in computer science, but what I really want to get into is land speculation in Judea and Samaria."

They all know that even in they do not make a fortune they most likely will not go into the red either. They remember that compensation was given to the settlers of Yamit when they left the area and it was returned to its owners. Many of the settlers feel that Israeli occupation of the West Bank will never be lifted.

"I don't think I'll have to leave," one women from Ma'ale Adumim stated, "Personally, I don't think King Hussein or President Reagan can reach a settlement."

With the seeds firmly planted and in no imminent danger of being uprooted, the Israeli government is moving with full force. One hundred and seven settlements are presently occupied in the West Bank. Israeli officials are hoping to more than double the number of Jews in the territory to 60,000 along with the completion of 6,000 new housing units bringing the total of dwelling compartments to about 11,800. In the next four years, the government is planning to place 42 more colonies in the West Bank which will house another 20,000 families, bringing the Jewish population to between 100,000 and 139,000. All of this is in preparation for the year 2010 when some Israelis boast they will have 1.4 million Jews living among 1.6 million Palestinians. This is if the Palestinian population continues to grow or stay in the occupied territories.

Encircling Jerusalem

The ultimate goal of the present government is to first surround the Palestinian population of East Jerusalem with Israelis and then eventually all the West Bank. Ma'ale Adumim was strategically placed in the east so that it would complete a ring around East Jerusalem. The settlements, many of which are still under construction, include: Neve Ya'acov to the north with 4000 apartments, Ramot to the west with 8000 apartments, Gilo to the south with 10,000 apartments and finally Ma'ale Adumim to the east with 6,000 apartments.

"Palestinians in East Jerusalem will be completely encircled from all directions except the sky above us, which always remains free," Mattar said. On August 9, 1979, while laying the corner stone for Ma'ale Adumim, then-Israeli Housing Minister David Levy said: "There will no longer be a line between what we had before the Six Day (1967) War and what we have in these days of redemption."

"We are putting the settlements all around Jerusalem so there will never be any question of whether it is part of Israel," another Israeli official stated at the same ceremony.

Mattar went on to say that Ma'ale Adumim is also one of 'three satellite towns' presently being built around the boundaries of so-called Greater Jerusalem and will be part of what the Israeli government calls 'Metropolitan Jerusalem.' The three 'towns' are: Ma'ale Adumim in the east, Efrat in the south and Givat Ze'ev in the north.

"These three will eventually be part of an area of nine towns surrounding Jerusalem," Mattar stated, "Some are already under construction, some already built and they are all over the West Bank."

The Likud government's long-term plan is to have the settlements fan out from Jerusalem and cover as much of the West Bank possible in the shortest period possible. They are confident that with such a large number of Jews in the area it will be very difficult for any future Israeli government to return the West Bank or remove the settlements and their occupants without producing major conflict. And, in this way, the government does not have to bother with the messy business of annexing the West Bank and making Israelis out of its 800,000 Palestinian inhabitants. "You don't annex your own homeland," Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has said.

Those Israelis that are living in settlements have the full protection of the Israeli government and its laws, while the West Bank Palestinians remain under military law and in representative limbo.

'The Sultan's Land'

The Israeli government claims that the land upon which Ma'ale Adumim is built is mostly government land and the remaining area was purchased from willing Palestinian private landowners. But Palestinians who claim ownership of the property under the settlement say this is far from the truth.

The land, according to the Israeli government, is not private property but has been state land since the Ottoman empire, when it was referred to as 'the sultan's land.' It was taken over by the British mandate, then placed in the care of the Hashemite Kingdom and is now the possession of Israel as part of the spoils of occupation, say Israeli settlement apologists.

Zev Ben Yosef, a spokesman for the World Zionist Organisation's settlement department, told the Israeli English language daily **Jerusalem Post** that, "70 percent of the land was neither privately owned nor farmed or otherwise occupied by the indigenous Arabs."

And the settlers of Ma'ale Adumim seem to believe their government's statements without question. "I don't see anything wrong with us living here," said one settler. "The Beduin who were living here before weren't making anything of it. We made it into something beautiful."

"There were some Beduin, but only on part of the land," Mattar stated, "There were also farmers who had been on the land for generations." The Greek Orthodox Church had hired the Beduin as caretakers of the remittance to one of their churches built in the fifth century. The property in question belongs to Palestinian farmers and landowners from Bethany, Abu Dis and Jerusalem. Several held title deeds since the days of the Turks and paid tax on the land through both the British and Jordan stewardship. "No land was purchased in this area," Mattar said, "It was all stolen without compensation."

In 1975, the Israeli military government in the West Bank expropriated the land for Ma'ale Adumim without any of the owners being notified. "The only one that was told was the mukhtar of the area," said Jerusalem lawyer Elias Khoury. Khoury, attorney for several Palestinian landowners who claim the 'Ma'ale Adumim' land, said, "The mukhtar was informed that the government would only take a small piece of land for a rubbish dump."

The property owners did not know that 9,000 acres of their land had been selected as the site of the new settlement until the summer of 1979 when the Israeli bulldozers turned the trees, the fields and the 1400 year old church into piles of rubble.

As the foundations for the new stone buildings were being laid, the original land holders began seeking legal help to recover what they had lost. Unfortunely, they found that Israeli law had been altered against them.

From the beginning of the occupation until three years ago, the military government seized private property under the all-encompasing phrase 'for security reasons.' The government was hampered in its building of large-scale settlements in the area by the ruling in international law, that land under occupation could only be held temporarily and must be returned once the occupation was ended.

Proving Ownership

In 1980, the Israeli government changed its strategy by claiming the land had been the Turkish government's and that anyone who claimed private ownership had to prove otherwise. The plaintives are given 21 days to present their cases. "This is not enough time to present a case," Khoury stated, "The Jordanians took 20 years to survey the land. Paper and other evidence to prove ownership may be difficult to obtain, because the majority of the landowners have not kept accurate records over the years." Ninety percent of these people only have the tax registration book to prove their ownership. However, according to Jordan law and that of the so-called civilian government of the West Bank, this is not enough. The owner must have up-to-date official documents. "With this new technique, the Israelis are misleading the world and cheating everyone around," Khoury said.

A case in point is Rashid Hijazi, who, along with three partners, bought 120 dunums in 1963. They planned to subdivide the area for housing projects. They built some service roads (which the Israelis used in their initial construction of Ma'ale Adumim) and began surveying the land.

Then, in 1967, after the June War and Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Hijazi was forbidden from building for 'security reasons.' Hijazi went to the Israeli military objections committee several times to challenge the land seizure. The case finally reached the High Court in May 1980. The court ruled against Hijazi stating that its finding was based on lack of proof of ownership. "Part of the land was being surveyed in 1967 by the Jordanian government," Mattar stated, "Therefore, the deeds were not actually given out. The Israelis used this to confiscate the rest," Khoury says.

In 1978, Israeli officials came to Hijazi's Jerusalem shop and offered to pay him for the land, but he refused and threw them out. "They wanted to pay for possession not because of ownership," Khoury says, "They are wise. They are full of alternatives to support their actions." Now, in his struggle with the Israeli government, Khoury is trying a new technique of his own. He and his clients simply refuse to present their cases before the military objections committee, assigned to rule if the wife owns the land.

"They are not courts which can freely decide on litigation, but must act as the military authorities dictate," Khoury states. "Why should we have to go to the military committee? We are the owners, we will not make the effort to prove we are not."

With or without enacting litigation, the settlements remain and continue to multiply and expand. "The problem is not a legal one, but political," Khoury says, "which requires a political remedy." However, until that remedy comes about, the residents of Ma'ale Adumim appear content and not too concerned about the land's former owners.

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What Begin and Reagan Didn't Want You to Know – Part V

Shin Bet:
Counterespionage and International Security Service

1. Functions

Shin Bet has the responsibility in Israel for counterespionage and internal security and the service is basically internally oriented. Shin Bet is primarily responsible for collecting information on foreign intelligence organizations, both hostile and friendly, and their activities; protecting the security of Israeli officials and installations abroad; and investigating all forms of subversion directed by either internal or external forces, including sabotage and terrorism in Israel and abroad. Shin Bet evaluates all information developed, collates it with other material routinely and overtly available from both Israeli and foreign sources, and submits evaluated reports to the appropriate government agencies for action. Shin Bet operates to combat two main adversaries: the Arabs and the Soviet and Eastern European intelligence and security services.

Shin Bet at one time engaged in positive intelligence operations and immigration affairs in the Balkan countries, particularly in Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and in Hungary, but no longer does. Shin Bet is the government's authority on personnel and physical security matters, is responsible for the personal security of the president, the prime minister, and the minister of defense.

Shin Bet does not have the power of arrest, which is the right only of the Special Tasks Division of the Investigations Department of the Israeli police, a national force with headquarters in Jerusalem. When an arrest is desired, Shin Bet submits a detailed report on the case plus a request for an arrest warrant to the ministry of justice. The Legal Department transmits the request to the Special Tasks Division, which issues the warrant and makes the arrest. When more expeditious handling is justified, Shin Bet directly notifies the Special Tasks Division, which is empowered to take the suspect into temporary custody pending receipt of the warrant. On occasion a Shin Bet officer will sit in court with the prosecution staff as a special consultant.

2. Organization

Shin Bet is organized into eight operational and functional departments: (1) Arab Affairs; (2) Non-Arab Affairs; (3) Protective Security; (4) Operational Support; (5) Technology; (6) Interrogation and Legal Counsel; (7) Coordination and Planning; and (8) Administration. Regional departments in the field are located in the Gaza/Sinai area with headquarters in Ashqelon; the northern area with headquarters in Haifa; and the West Bank area with headquarters in Jerusalem. A unit within Shin Bet national headquarters in Tel Aviv serves as the fourth regional department. These regional departments are broken down into subdivisions identical to but smaller than those of the parent organization.

The Arab Affairs Department is responsible for counterespionage, antiterrorist operations, control of political subversion, research and the maintenance of a counterintelligence index on Ar- s. The components handling these activities are organized into offensive and defensive sections. This department operates through field offices controlled by regional officers. These officers report to the regional commanders but rely on the Arab Affairs Department for guidance and support, which includes aid in counterespionage, countersabotage and surveillance as well as research and records support. The overall headquarters function is that of determining doctrine, systematizing work and supervising.

The Non-Arab Department handles counterintelligence operations dealing with all other countries, countersubversion (one component dealing with Communist subversion, the other with non-Communist New Left subversion), foreign liaison and research. Each unit dealing with these activities has offensive and defensive sections. The Non-Arab Department investigates counterespionage activity by foreign powers, both hostile and friendly, by all known methods, including the penetration of their intelligence services and diplomatic installations in Israel. Operations against foreign missions within Israel were formerly conducted by Military Intelligence, but with the evolution towards greater centralization and professional specialization since the reorganization of 1951, this function has been the responsibility of Shin Bet.

The Non-Arab Affairs Department engages in the penetration of extremist political parties such as MAKI (the Communist Party of Israel); RAKAH (the New Communist List), a largely Arab-supported splinter group; SIAH (the Israeli New Left); and anti-Zionist and extreme rightist organizations. The Department also investigates counterfeiting, blackmarketing, the smuggling of money and goods in and out of the country, and violations of the economic control laws. It is responsible for tapping telephone lines and intercepting domestic and diplomatic telephone conversations.

The Non-Arab Affairs Department is responsible for foreign liaison and handles all correspondence by Shin Bet with other foreign intelligence and security services. The interrogation of immigrants from the USSR and Eastern European nations is also undertaken by this department.

The Protective Security Department is responssible for the protection of Israeli government buildings and embassies, El Al and Zim installations and craft, defense industries and scientific establishments, and leading personalities. This department is also charged with the security of all important industrial plants, especially those of actual or potential military value, and is engaged in the prevention of leakage of industrial secrets such as patents, processes, statistics, etc. It also carries on liaison with security officers throughout the Israeli government. Although guards and security officers are paid by the institutions to which they are assigned, their recruitment, training, and control is a Shin Bet responsibility. The Protective Security Department controls the security of internal communications and the secrecy of information. A small unit within the department, for example, handles all matters concerning espionage with the Office of Mail and Telegraph Censorship.

The Protective Security Department directs Shin Bet security activities overseas including the protection of Israeli personnel, diplomatic and transport offices, facilities and equipment. Although Mossad has responsibility for unilateral operations and liaison on intelligence matters and Military Intelligence con-, trols the attache system and military liaison, Shin Bet handles protective security and liaison with local security services abroad to safeguard Israeli personnel and property. For instance, there is a regional Protective Security office in Paris which is concerned primarily with El Al and Zim security.

The Operational Support Department is responsible for assisting the operational departments with surveillance, observation, airport security, censorship, listening devices, special tasks and counteraudio support. This department has tactical components, which aid in counterintelligence operations, VIP protection and telephone taps. The Department provides support in running a highly developed intercept operation from a switchboard installed in Shin Bet offices. This enables the service to avoid having to make taps either across pairs in a local box or even in the telephone centrals under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Communications Telephone Services; and also avoids any possible compromise by leftist employees of the Telephone Services.

The Technology Department lends support to the operating departments in electronics, mechanics, and chemistry. It provides technical support to operations in the following areas: audio and visual surveillance, communications, photography, surreptitious entry, telephone taps, mail censorship, security devices, etc.

The Interrogation and Legal Counsel Department handles all counterintelligence and security interrogations for Shin Bet operating departments not handed over to the Special Tasks Division of the police. This department makes selective use of the polygraph. It also checks the reliability of Mossad sources, fabricators and suspect double agents. Personnel in this component travel to the field as required to give polygraph tests and conduct interrogations. The department also assists in preparing cases for trial and provides other legal assistance to operating departments as needed.

The Coordination and Planning Department has responsibility for coordination of counterintelligence and security methodology, training, security recruitment and the central registry. This department maintains the Shin Bet card files, with the exception of those on Arabs. In addition to ordinary carding procedures, there is an entry on every individual in the country who has a police record. This enables all government offices to make a quick check on the police record of present or potential employees through Shin Bet. All tracing procedures are channeled into this department, from name checks through neighbourhood investigations. This registry uses a military computer. The registry on Arabs is not yet computerized because of the difficulty with Arabic names.

The Administration Department performs the usual functions of personnel management, finance, supply, transport, communications, and security.

Next week, in our continuing series excerpted from the 1979 CIA and US State Department document, originally published in **CounterSpy** magazine, we focus on the Shin Bet's administrative and methods of operation.

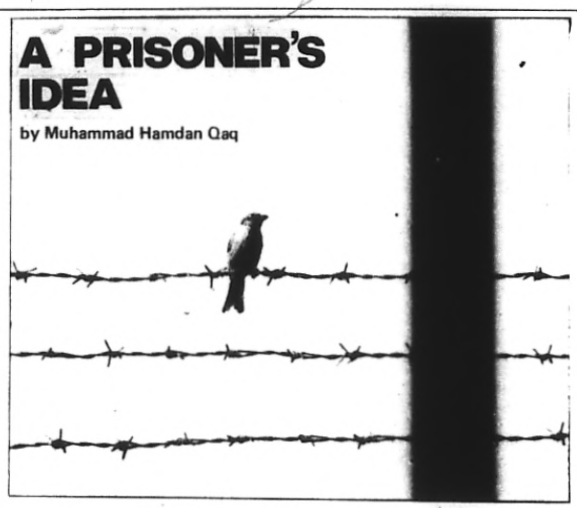
PALESTINE AND LITERATURE

Muhammad Qaq is a Palestinian prisoner in Nafha jail and Adel Osta lives in Balata camp. Both have written essays expressing their feelings about the general political atmosphere in which they live and the repressive measures which dominate their lives in the prison and camp.

A nightmare pursues Adel Osta day and night, and he, unable to communicate with people, takes refuge on the streets of his city. Muhammad Qaq, on the other hand, has participated in a hunger strike with his prison mates. He finds the solution to his personal frustration in self-denial and an insistence to continue the struggle for the broader cause.

A PRISONER'S IDEA

by Muhammad Hamdan Qaq



You are wretched. The days go on and on, You spend the most beautiful moment of your life crouched in one place. They put you in a building within a building . . . in the desire to protect you they claim. You are depressed by it and it is impatient with you. Each is about to explode with sharp vexation.

They stop you enjoying the sun and grant you electric light to torture you and drive the light from your sight forever.

The air which is allowed to enter is far from pure, while the air outside is very pure. It fills the whole desert.

Your present is a repetition of the past. There's nothing new but that you create yourself from the flow of your personality. Your present memories have no contact since the fading of past images and the disappearance of features in the long distance and days. Fun has no place in your life — whether you experienced it once, or not. You become programmed to deny amusement in your present and future. You do not see those you love. They do not see you except for the brief moments which spark the flames of love in your heart.

They wanted you to become a mere number, but your number has destroyed all their accounts. Your days are still passing. They might have been sweet outside this prison. You had made them a constant source of worry to your enemy and you enjoyed the sweetness of your enemy's reaction. The enemy had made itself the source of distress for your people under the rule of their occupation, and in tents of exile.

Your proud self hates the building containing you, but your news crosses large distances, transcends barriers, and transforms your narrow cell into the front line from which you wound the enemy's breast.

Your eyes, deprived of the sun, do not despair while there is a price for this sacrifice. This sacrifice is the eternal light for millions of eyes.

Through the pure air which your lungs are deprived of, you transmit the news of the crime which they attempted to imprison within walls. Your news hits the ears of both those who listen and others who do not want to.

In the present whose documents go on without renewal, you did not only renew your individuality, but shared in vitalising the cause which was lost in the vast sea of egotistical dog-fighting. You are aware that memories went and will never come back. So what's the use of mulling over memories?

In the life of the individual, moments pass leaving nothing but the feeling of bitterness and you have no amusement to make you forget the pains of your people.

You don't want to kill time thinking about lovers from whom you moved away. And they don't have enough time to think of you. You both need the time with all its moments to spend serving the cause. The years of your life are in comparison with historical time, mere architectural dots without angles. The long years you spent in the prison are priceless if you compare them with the life of an individual but they are worthless in comparison with the life of a people. Thus, you are able to spend them. Does it harm you that your life transcends the fact that you are a prisoner?

Al Shira', No. 49
February 1, 1983

A TIME FOR STREETS ALSO

Dear Friend,

Early in the morning, when you wake up and try to remember the nightmare of the night before what drives you to tears? What makes you want to break out of time? You light your first cigarette, you make your coffee and drink it alone, save for the company of people in the nightmare who attacked you in the night. You sit on the terrace of your home watching the confiscated homeland. You try again to remember the nightmare. You give your justification for descending the mountain, for the Arab chieftain who prepared your gallows and ordered his followers: "Execute him!" You awoke last night and discovered there are countries between you and the chieftain.

With the first sip of coffee, you plunge into the nightmare, and with the first cigarette you remember last night. You didn't sleep five hours, but long decades. Last night was countries of mountains, deserts, rivers, seas, oceans, which suddenly attacked you, and you resisted using your bare hands.

You drink your coffee slowly. Yes, slowly, and you don't mind to leave this prison-house to go to the jail. Last night was nothing but an emaciated homeland, like an emaciated body asking forever what's the secret of starvation? In the early morning you try to compress time. But it was a dreadful moment when you stretched your body, the cells of your body: your daily distress, your eternal distress, your existence. How the whole world is alienation and you even alienate the people closest to you. Why didn't you try to leave after you finished sipping coffee and the butt of your first cigarette burned your withered fingers?

Who should you talk to this morning — the newspaper, your mother, friend or girlfriend who does not see you but only the desirable suit, the pretty car, video and week-end trips?

Who should you talk to this morning to dispel the belief that you are alone in this world?

The daily barricade where the oppressors want to kill you step by step, lest they anger their master who then would transfer his protests to them. The daily barricade where you will be divided, friend, into two sections — villagers and town residents. The daily barricade where you become a stranger in your own country; the daily barricade where they take man back to primitivism with ignorance, hatred and the repetitious death.

Who should you talk to this morning? To January's rain or cold? Or must you argue with the streets, that were your sole refuge in your nightmare.

"Oh, streets, my Ms. Streets, listen to me well. Listen to me, there's not long before we again become very close friends to satisfy the eternal priest. To satisfy the pretty girlfriend. To statisfy the illiterate intellectual who cannot read or discuss a letter.

"Oh, streets. You're my mother who understands me; you're the most intimate friend, who respects others feelings and understands the horses which fled from the age of hypocrisy, lies, anarchy, stupidity and bestiality.

"Ms. Streets, do I leave you to leave me to be close friends and continue our long debate?

"Ms. Streets, do you save me from the nightmare to start our long journey to man?"

It is the streets' time.

— 2 —

Short rendezvous

Do you remember the details of that short rendezvous? That day I talked about you, I remembered the details of that rendezvous. I remembered Cuba who visited us while we were in exile. I remembered Cuba who offered us tea and debated quickly with us. I remember you now. Oh splendid, the taste of tea is still in my mouth. I remember you and the taste of exile is still in my mouth. We talked in English, I apologised for my poor English. But I ask myself why do I remember you, Cuban woman? Your name, the shape of your body . . . your voice assault my memory.

In the latest debate, the daily debate, the confusing debate, which fired us to the point of exhaustion. You were the closest to me despite the distance, countries, barricades, withdrawn passports separating us.

I told them about you, about the Cuban woman who married a Palestinian in exile. She came from a far away place to visit her father-in law, to write something about the confiscated homeland, about the murdered homeland, to do something, to give an opinion.

I told them about you, they smiled and said: "He is stupid." One bragged that she was unconcerned about 'embarrassing things.' Another talked about pretty clothes. And another said and said and said. I don't write what she said because I am ashamed.

What should I write about a short rendezvous? Why should I write about it when I cannot master the debate? Why should I not write about the irksome daily discussions. It is the luxury flat, the beautiful clothes, the desirable suit, the modern car, the high-fashion clothes. Friend, I do not know about these things and am, therefore, very stupid. Do you read poetry?

— 3 —

Poetry

To the watered trees
To deserted bars on a calm night
To a friend whom I understand
To a woman who understands
something
Different from sex and soothing
colour
I mailed posters which nobody
received

Sa'adi Yousef
From: "Under Fa'eq Hassan's Mural"
Translation: Al Fajr, 23. 1. 83

Adel Osta

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS

The latest round of Israeli land confiscations was the focal point of all the Palestinian papers published in the occupied territories. Israeli land confiscation in the occupied West Bank last week alone, was over 30,000 dunums. Prominent coverage in the daily papers was given to Israeli Prime Minister Begin's statement that "settlement in the occupied territories is the right of every Jew."

The breakdown of security arrangements in the Shouf mountains and the deadlock of the Israeli-US-Lebanese talks rounded out the main stories of the week. Meetings of PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat with the Lebanese premier and foreign minister in Tunisia, as well as the results of the latest meetings of PLO leaders and the Fatah revolutionary council received top coverage.

Mr. Freij Goes to Cairo

Mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Freij is on an official visit to Cairo, during which he is holding talks with Egyptian officials. On his arrival at the Egyptian capital and during his stay, Freij made many statements concerning the Palestinian issue.

Freij sang the praises of the wisdom of Egyptian policy which produced the fruit of the Sadat initiative and consequent restoration of the Sinai to Egypt and which distinguished itself during the invasion of Lebanon — in Freij's words. He also, from Cairo, offered advice to the Palestinian leadership and made proposals for the coming session of the National Council.

This calls for two basic points to be made on the subject. The first is that all the mayors elected in 1976 were not elected by their people as political representatives of the Palestinian people, because they were not searching for representatives.

It is true that the firm national stand of those elected gives them the trust of the people; however, it remains understood, as they have explained hundreds of times, that they are responsible only for managing the affairs of their towns and do not enjoy, in any way, political representation . . .

. . . . . .

AL SHAAB
January 27

Past, Present, Future

Fifty years ago, on January 30, 1933, Hitler and his clique from the Nazi German National Socialist Workers' Party rose to power.

This party, established in 1919, represented the German bourgeoisie, at its most reactionary and aggressive.

No sooner had this party taken power in Germany, than it set up a fascist disctatorship which a few years later lit the fires of the Second World War (1939-1945) whose victims numbered over 50 million people in addition to the 35 million who were disabled and the enormous destruction caused by the Nazi murderers in the whole of Europe.

The war ended in the total downfall of Nazi Germany. Following this — in 1945 — the Nazi National Socialist Party was dissolved. But many former Nazis joined organisations immersed in reactionism which ressembled the Nazi organisations formed in West Germany.

The Second World War ended in the downfall of the Nazis in Germany, but the danger of fascism did not end, not in West Germany and not in other capitalist countries.

Fascism is a political trend which appears in capitalist countries in periods of general economic crisis.

Fascism is characterised by fanatical chauvinism, racism, hostility to communism and the elimination of democratic freedoms by wide-scale demagogical social practices and by total domination of citizens' private and public lives. It also forms the policy for imperialist conquests and the launching of wars.

The first fascist regime was established in Italy in 1922. Nazi fascism reached power in Germany, as we have mentionted, in 1933; in Spain in 1939. The defeat of the military centre of fascism in the Second World War was accompanied by the downfall of the fascist regimes in Italy and Germany and quasi-fascist regimes in a number of other countries.

The fall of the fascist regime in Spain after the death of Franco (in November 1975), the bringing down of fascism in Portugal and Greece (in 1974) are evidence of the weakness of fascist regimes in present circumstances.

However that may be, the fascist military coup in Chile (in November 1973) and the influence spread by the reactionary military administration to a number of countries, the fascist regime in the republic of South Africa. . . these and other facts indicate the seriousness of the fascist danger in a number of areas in the world.

The establishment of a united front of forces hostile to fascism is the best and most effective way to combat fascism.

There is no doubt that the behaviour of the Israeli forces, distinguished by killing women and children, and the whole policy of the Begin-Sharon government, is the biggest proof of the danger of fascism threatening the people of the area.

There were many aspects of the danger of fascism in Israel, even before the latest war of aggression on Lebanon; the increase of hysterical official racist hostility towards the Arabs; the development of pockets of fascism and racism, like the gangs of Gush Emunim and Kahane; the continuous diminishing of democratic freedoms and the use of oppressive state machinery against the class struggle and of course, against the Arab masses.

All this calls for the utmost awareness and a widening of the democratic alliance between Jews and Arabs to topple the right-wing government of war and to oppose the danger of fascism in the country. This battle against fascism corresponds exactly to the battle for a just peace, the equality of the Arab masses, the battle of workers for their democratic rights and the protection of democratic freedoms.

AL ITTIHAD
January 28

The Face Of Farce

One of the political farces in the region, and how many there are, is that the Israeli government, its deputies and prominent politicians, all call for punishing the Israelis who hold political contacts with the PLO and consider such contacts a danger to the state and its security.

From the sultanate of Amman, news agencies attribute statements to King Hussein that he will enter negotiations with Israel. Yesterday the US ambassador to Jordan said in a report to the US administration that King Hussein intends to enter negotiations at the end of February, in one month's time.

Israel, however, has greeted this news with official silence and little news interest, the Israeli press publishing the news in unobtrusive places in its papers.

The farcical face of this is that Israel used to fill the world with talk of its desire for "peace" and "good neighbourliness" and said that there was not one Arab to talk to. And today, now that there is more than one, Israel uses all pretexts and tricks to avoid walking along the road to a just peace, preferring the road to expansionism and colonialism.

AL MITHAQ
January 29

A Long Stay and Endless Trips

After long weeks of Lebanese-Israeli talks and trips between Khalde and Khalsa (Kiryat Shemona), it has become clear that the two sides have, so far, not been able to reach any agreement because of what Lebanon describes as unreasonable Israeli demands and what Israel describes as decisions set down in Riyad and Damascus, not in Beirut.

It has been clear from the start that the Lebanese authorities have been playing the same "99 percent of the cards in American hands" game. The Lebanese president went on a pilgrimage to the White House immediately after his succession to the presidency and was sure that the US administration would get the occupation forces out of his country and restore national unity and sovereignty to every inch of it.

Instead of this, in the last few days we have seen these negotiations stumble and fall in the same place they started, leaving total despondency over the "almighty power" of American magic which possesses — so they believe — 99 percent of the cards.

It seems that Washington has realised this and has begun to look for another trick so that its followers do not lose this conviction. Thus US Secretary of State Shultz started, a few days ago, to talk about the wide gap between Israeli demands and Lebanese possibilities, admitting that the US administration cannot do anything "almighty" to save the talks, promising that they will be studied and studied again . . . American envoy Habib will return to the area soon, bringing new ideas in his magic box.

In this case, time will show how wrong are those who believed that the departure from Beirut would be the end of Lebanon's problems and who refused to be persuaded that it would be merely the beginning.

AL FAJR
February 1

ISRAEL DISARMING DRUSE AS SHOUF BATTLES RAGE

According to reports from Lebanon, the Israeli army is conducting a massive disarmament campaign against Druse in the centre and south of the country. Latest developments include the arrest of eight Druse at Besour near Beirut January 26. Two Israeli soldiers conducting a search were captured two days earlier.

The Lebanese newspapers reported January 27 that residents in Shouf villages are conducting political contacts at all levels to confront the Israeli campaign of arresting Druse and confiscating defensive weapons.

According to the news agency reports, the Israeli commander of the northern district, Amir Drori, entered negotiations for the release of the two Israeli soldiers January 27. Reports said he promised Besour residents he would release the eight Druse he was holding after 12 hours interrogation. Later reports said neither the Israelis nor the Druse had released their prisoners.

Other sources report an even higher level of negotiation. Some reports say Yitzhak Moda'i, the Israeli minister of energy, has made several recent military inspection visits to Israeli military positions in the area. During these visits, Moda'i is said to have made contact with both Phalange leaders and activists in the Progressive Socialist Party of Walid Jumblatt. Reports here said Moda'i expressed Israel's concern about attaining "a permanent final solution to the conflict in the area."

All this diplomatic activity is having an effect here. Salman Natour, of the Druse Initiative Committee told **Al Fajr**, "We always receive contradictory news and we have to carefully examine news circulated by the Israeli media about negotiations with the Lebanese national forces."

Last month, Druse activists point out, officers in the Israeli army alleged that all Phalangist-Druse clashes in the Shouf were coordinated by Israel. The allegations were published in **Al Hamishmar**.

Natour attacked a Druse academic committee established by Israeli few weeks ago to collect donations for their Lebanese co-religionists. Natour said that the national progressive forces have rejected the initiative "because they are aimed at pacifying the Druse here." The DIC position, he said, is that the Druse in Lebanon "want political not financial aid — they demand an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon."

One Year For Trip to Syria

Golan Heights Residents Sentenced

The district court in Nazareth sentenced two residents of Boqata in the Golan Heights to one year imprisonment and another year suspended imprisonment for crossing into Syria January 30.

Hamad Amasheh, 41, and his son Rafiq, 19, crossed into Syria a month ago and requested aid for Golan students.

The Israeli prosecutor told the district court that in Syria, an army officer rejected their request and ordered them to return. Hamad Amasheh and his son returned the next day, entering the Golan Heights near Majdal Shams where Israeli soldiers arrested them.

Golan Heights students have been prevented by the Israeli authorities from studying at Syrian universities since November 1981 as a punishment for local Druse refusal to accept Israeli identity cards. Students cannot study at Israeli universities unless they accept Israeli IDs.

Kuwaitis Fund US University Post To Counter "Western Ignorance"

The Kuwaiti government has established a centre for Arab studies in an American university to counter Western ignorance of the Arabs, which their defense ministers say, is in large part responsible for the "Palestinian tragedy."

The Sheikh al-Salem al-Sabah chair of Contemporary Arab Studies was inaugurated at Washington DC's prestigious Georgetown University Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies January 25. Dr Hanna Batatu was named as the first professor. The inauguration of the US $ 1 million chair, in the presence of the Kuwaiti defence minister and ambassador to the US, was attended by around 200 people.

Hanna Batatu gave a lecture on the revolutions in Egypt, Syria and Iraq. Batatu was educated at Georgetown and Harvard Universities. He has held fellowships at Princeton, Harvard and the Massachussetts Institute of Technology. Born in Jerusalem, he taught political science at the American University in Beirut from 1962-1981 and was chairman of the department of political studies and public administration there from 1979-1981. He has published a major volume, **The Old Social Classes and Revolutionary Movement of Iraq**, as well as several articles in scholarly journals.

'Peace Talks' Stumble On, War Preparations Escalate

Israeli Delegate David Kimche toasts Lebanese Delegate Antoine Fattal, left and US Delegate Morris Draper

by Livia Rokach, Our Rome Correspondent

ROME, February 1 — The illusion of certain sectors of the Lebanese population of Beirut that "peace had finally come," following the arrival of the multi-national troops, lasted exactly 100 days. As of Saturday, January 30, it was war again throughout Lebanon, and this time, while European media are repeatedly predicting a renewed flare up of military operations in Lebanon on a vast scale, the war threatens also to involve foreign troops present in Beirut.

In a sudden move, officially explained as due to "temporary technical difficulties" the Italian patrol of the multi-national force has been withdrawn from East Beirut. The withdrawal came only 24 hours after one Israeli soldier was killed and three others were gravely wounded (one died yesterday from his wounds) in a guerrilla action in the Gallery Sam'an area, which was controlled until yesterday by Lebanese army troops and a unit of the Italian contingent. The Italian military were transferred to south Beirut where a massive infiltration of Israeli patrols was reported to have taken place. Two Israeli attempts to penetrate the Shi'a neighbourhood, which is under joint Lebanese and Italian control, were in fact pushed back in the course of the day. The multi-national force positions around the Palestinian camps have also been reinforced and placed on a state of alert.

Earlier, Italian sources in Beirut reported that Israeli troops reacted with totally irrational fury to Sunday's ambush, for which the Lebanese National Resistance has claimed responsibility. The sources said the Israeli troops opened indiscriminate tank fire on residential areas around the south-eastern outlets of Gallery Sam'an, levelling dozens of houses. A two-story house damaged by the shelling was then completely levelled by tanks running amok. Two women were crushed to death. One of them was Mariam Abdullah, mother of Nazih Abdullah, one of the senior officers in the Lebanese army.

From the middle of the week, both east and west Beirut were gripped by sharp tension and fear. Ashrafiya, Bet Merry and other Maronite neighbourhoods, which were spared the horrors of war while the Palestinian neighbourhoods were flooded with fire and blood, have been heavily shelled from positions in the mountains. Fighting was reported yesterday in Ein al-Rummane, while the number of attacks on Israeli troops in and around south Beirut rises daily as the Israeli presence becomes increasingly evident. According to a European personality, who returned from Lebanon last week, daily cases of attacks on Israeli soldiers in Beirut remain unannounced.

War has also escalated in the Shouf and around the town of Aley where the Israeli-supported Phalangists have escalated the offensive in their attempts to gain hegemony of the Druse mountains. Twenty were reported dead last night in the Druse village of Beit Sour, which has been hit by no less than 1000 mortar shells in the last 12 hours.

Meanwhile on the political level, enraged Lebanese officials have criticised Sharon's visits to east Beirut and his declarations regarding Israel's intention to build early warning stations in Lebanon, in exchange for a pull-back from Lebanon by the Israelis. The current interpretation in Beirut is that Sharon intends to offer Syria a share in the partition of Lebanon. The current Israeli ally, Camille Chamoun, recently declared "Israel is in Lebanon only for its own interests and is ready to carry them out at the expense of the Lebanese and the integrity of their country."

Another statement made this morning by Pierre Gemayel, who met with Sharon last Monday in Beirut, however, reveals a grave threat: the Phalangist leadership is trying to blackmail the Muslim majority in Beirut and Lebanon into succumbing to Israeli threats. Gemayel appealed to Muslims in Beirut to cooperate with the Christians because, he said, "Israel wants to get them onto its side as it did with Saad Haddad." If Israel gets its way the Christians will end up like Saad Haddad — completely on Israel's side.

It is against the background of this hardly-veiled threat to force the Muslim majority to cede with no conditions to Phalangist intentions that the "negotiations" took place in Khalde during the week. It is also against this background that about half the members of the Lebanese government were expected in Rome on Wednesday to participate in the Vatican promotion to cardinal of Maronite Patriarch Pierre Khoreish, in a staged show of "national unity going beyond confessional divisions" for public opinion abroad. The Lebanese delegation was headed by Premier Shafiq al-Wazzan.

In view of the visit to the Vatican, personalities and concerned committees in Switzerland and other European countries appealed to Pope John Paul II to raise the issue of thousands of Palestinian prisoners and missing persons, illegally held by the official Lebanese army and security forces as well as by Phalangist militia, in his talk with the Lebanese prime minister. Similar appeals have also been addressed to the new Cardinal Khoreish.

Lebanese peasants from the village of Ansar, forced to flee to Beirut under violent threats, meanwhile informed our correspondent that they heard wild shooting by prison camp guards on Thursday, January 13.

The Permanent Tribunal of the People, meeting in special session in Madrid to examine the Guatemalan regime's genocidal crimes against civilian populations in the mountains and the countryside, declared Israel responsible for the crime of genocide, together with the United States, Argentina and Chile. The sentence was pronounced by Nobel Prize laureate George Wald.

WEEKLY REVIEW

Students sit for mid-year tawjihi (secondary school matriculation) exam/SF

January 26, 1983

RENEWED TOWN ARREST

The Israeli authorities have renewed the town arrest order on Hassan Barghouthi, former secretary of the Union of Restaurant and Hotel Workers, for the seventh consecutive time. He also has to report daily to the al-Bireh police station. The order is renewed for six months.

FAMILY GIVEN RUN-AROUND

The occupation authorities have recently removed Bassem Barghouthi, secretary of Ramallah Workers Union, from Ramallah jail to Fara'a detention center and from there to Nablus.

Bassem's family believe that the authorities have done this to prevent them visiting him for the two months he has been imprisoned. They say this is punishment on both him and his family.

ANOTHER NABLUS DEMO

TEL AVIV — Stones were thrown and tyres were set alight in Nablus. Israeli forces dispersed the demonstrators.

PLO FIRED KATYUSHA

TEL AVIV — Israeli radio announced that the PLO is responsible for the firing of Katyusha rockets January 25 on the settlement of Zar'it in the north. The radio added that the rockets hit their target and that helicopters removed the wounded.

DESTRUCTIONS ILLEGAL — OFFICIAL

TEL AVIV — The military governor of the West Bank informed the Israeli High Court that the demolition of buildings in the heart of Hebron, which took place two months ago, happened without his knowledge and without his agreement, and that it should be regarded as an illegal act.

CELL ARRESTED

TEL AVIV — The Israeli authorities have arrested seven youths from Taibeh in the Triangle on charges of possessing weapons without permits, according to reports released today.

One of the youths was charged with using an Uzi machine gun in an incident in which nobody was hurt. The youths were found in possession of Uzis, rifles and hand grenades.

ONE MORE TEACHER OUT

HEBRON — The Israeli administrator for educational affairs in the West Bank announced he has decided to sack teacher Mohammad Issa Kurdi from his job as of February 14, 1983.

AGRICULTURAL DISASTER

HEBRON — Agricultural engineer Hafiz Mujahed, manager of the Hebron Cooperative Olive Press, said that the heavy rains in the region in the last few days had flooded canals and destroyed many canal banks in fertile areas, especially in the villages of Tarqumia and Idhna.

BOMB THROWN

Unidentified people threw a hand grenade at a house in the village of Julius in the western Galilee. Nobody was injured and no damage was caused to property. Israeli police arrested two people for investigation.

500 DUNUM GRAB

BATTIR — The planning officer in the Bethlehem region and another officer went to the village of Battir and informed members of the village council and the mukhtar, Darwish Mohammed Darwish, that the area known as Jabal Khamar is state property. He said that the area is more than 500 dunums.

The officers took the village mukhtar to the military government headquarters and showed him a map and informed him that the villagers had 21 days to oppose the decision.

DRUG BUSTERS BUSTED

TEL AVIV — According to the Israeli media, Israeli police sources report the arrest of two policemen in Jerusalem for possessing hashish.

ANOTHER ROBBERY

QALQILIA — Unidentified people entered the Jamal dry-goods shop owned by Hussein Haj Hassan Labat and stole a number of pairs of shoes and clothes. Police are investigating the incident.

January 27, 1983

DON'T GO!!

KIRYAT SHEMONA — Representatives of Israeli settlements in the north have called for the continued occupation by Israeli forces of Lebanese territory and the continuation of what they call "peace and security for Israel and the Galilee."

In a meeting with the commander of the northern district, Amir Drori, they expressed their concern over a possible Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

BOMBS

TEL AVIV — A bomb exploded near a cafe in Kfar Saba. Israel radio said that no one was injured. Israeli forces also discovered an explosive device in Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem but managed to defuse it.

OVERFLIGHTS AGAIN

BEIRUT — Israeli planes, for the fourth consecutive day, carried out intensive surveillance flights over central south Lebanon, 45 kilometers south of Beirut.

'NO GO' AMMAN

Amin Shehadeh, mayor of Bir Zeit has issued the following statement:

"Commenting on what was published in **Al Quds** the day before yesterday concerning the mayors of Beitounia, Silwad, Bani Zeid and Bir Zeit being allowed to travel to Amman, I deny that I have any knowledge of such an agreement."

CORRUPTION BUST

RAMALLAH — The magistrates court in Ramallah began hearing the trial of Atta Ahmed Mousa Khalil and Suheil Na'ameh Salim Laham on charges of embezzlement, robbery and malpractice at the Ramallah municipality. The acts they are accused of occurred after the council was dissolved last March.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

NABLUS — The Child Care and Women's Guidance Society announced enrollment in their courses to train girls from the families of prisoners, martyrs, refugees and the needy in knitting, crocheting, shoemaking and tailoring.

SETTLEMENT EXPANSIONS

NABLUS — The authorities announced the expansion of the Emanuel settlement on the Dib mountain near Deir Istia. The land covers an area of 300 dunums. The Israeli High Court has ordered work on the land to stop, after the matter was brought to court by the lawyer representing the landowners and after bulldozers had uprooted 2200 olive trees and had destroyed walls in the area.

COST OF INVASIONS

TEL AVIV — The Israeli military spokesperson announced that the cost of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon is IS48,200 million. He added that the cost covers the period from June to August 1982 plus an estimation of additional costs until the end of the current fiscal year.

January 28, 1983

'HOSTILE' PROPAGANDA

Yediot Ahranot reported that video-tapes of films 'hostile' to Israel are being distributed in the Galilee, especially in the Nazareth area.

The paper added that some of these tapes show the massacre of Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila and films about the (1948) Deir Yassin massacre.

DESTRUCTION DECAY

TEL AVIV — High Court judge, Shlomo Livnin, issued a temporary injunction against the West Bank 'civil administration' to prevent the demolition of several buildings including the stone-cutting workshop of Mohammad Faisal Mohammad Badawi, in Hebron.

Badawi presented an appeal to the Israeli High Court in which he said that the authorities had informed him of their intention to demolish the building on the pretext that it stands on land which is not his.

REFUSNIK JAILED

TEL AVIV — A military court sentenced Oded Hofshi to 28 days imprisonment for refusing to serve in Lebanon. A spokesperson for "**Yesh Gvul**" (There is a Limit) said that he is the 16th soldier to be imprisoned for refusing military service in Lebanon.

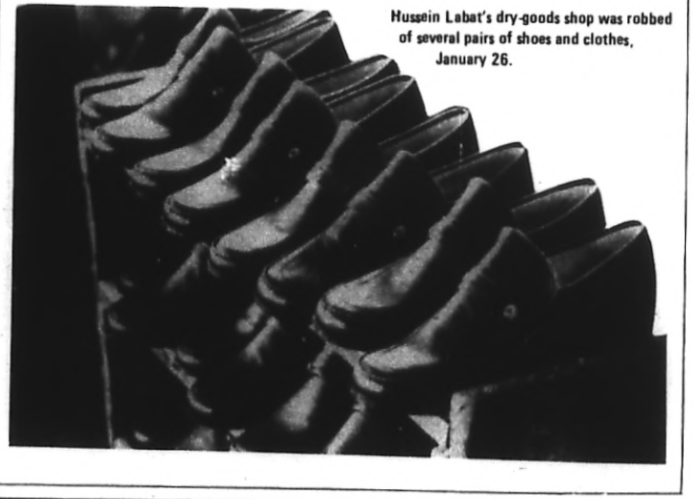
The movement stated that the increasing resentment felt by Israeli soldiers in Lebanon is causing the military authorities to impose stricter punishments on soldiers who refuse to serve in Lebanon.

TV PROBLEMS

KHAN YUNIS — Talal Yusef Nasser, 21, and Maher Yusef Nasser, 18, were injured when the TV antenna they were erecting on the roof of their house fell. Electricity in Khan Yunis was cut for 1½ hours after the incident.

CITRUS CRISIS

Farmers and citrus owners in the West Bank and Gaza are complaining of the rise in the fees for vehicles transporting citrus fruit to Amman.



Hussein Labat's dry-goods shop was robbed of several pairs of shoes and clothes, January 26.

The reason for this is the increase in the cost of special permits for goods and drivers. The driver's license now costs IS5400 for one journey and the license for transporting goods, IS8000 per month.

'NO GO' IN SOUTH LEBANON

As a result of injuries received by Israeli soldiers serving in Lebanon on their way back to Israel on leave, the army authorities have decided to transport soldiers by plane from an Israeli air base in the Damour area to air bases north of Nahariya.

CASH GRANTS

RAMALLAH — The General Examinations Committee in the West Bank has decided to grant money to exam supervisors, markers and heads of secondary studies **tawjihi** (matriculation) certificates at the end of this week.

RAMALLAH PRISONERS COMPLAIN

RAMALLAH — Palestinian prisoners in Ramallah jail have complained of ill-treatment. After meeting some of the prisoners, a lawyer stated that the prisoners do not receive the supplies they ask for, and that they are unable to sing or talk in loud voices for fear of being confined to solitary cells.

January 29, 1983

ARAFAT TO SCANDINAVIA

COPENHAGEN — It was announced today that PLO head Yasir Arafat is to visit three Scandinavian countries on the invitation of the Social Democratic parties in Denmark and Sweden and the Norwegian Labour Party. A date for the visit has not yet been fixed.

EXEC. SLAMS LEBANESE

ADEN: AFP — PLO spokesman Abdel Mohsen Abu Mizar said that the PLO executive committee has discussed in detail the "oppressive and illegal measures" taken by the Lebanese authorities against Palestinian civilians and residents, especially the campaign of arrests.

NEW SCHOOL OFFICIAL

TEL AVIV — **Haaretz** reports that the Israeli authorities intend to build the first Israeli college in a settlement — Kedumim, near Nablus. The paper adds that the college will "prepare Israeli leaders of the future" to intensify settlement in the West Bank.

LEBANESE OUST RESEARCHER

BEIRUT: AFP — According to the newspapers **Al Safir** and **Al Sharq**, Lebanese security personnel have deported Palestinian author Farouk Wadi, who worked in the Palestinian Research Centre, to Egypt. Palestinian sources confirmed the news and said that no official explanation for his expulsion has been given.

NO MEET FOR WEIZMAN

Former Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman denied reports in the London-based Saudi magazine **Al Majalah** that he has said he is ready to meet PLO head Yasir Arafat. Weizman told **Agence France Presse** that he had "not made any political statements for some time, nor taken any political stand."

FREIJ IN EGYPT

CAIRO, UP — Mayor of Bethlehem Elias Freij met Egyptian Prime Minister Fuad Muhiedin, and explained the situation in the occupied territories to him.

LEBANON NOT CONDUIT TO ARABS

BEIRUT: AFP — The Lebanese Board of Trade and Industry has denied that Israeli products are sold to Arab countries via Lebanese tradesmen. In a statement to Lebanese newspapers, Gabriel Badarou, head of the board, asserted that Lebanon is concerned to prevent the flow of Israeli products into Arab markets and said that this news is aimed at damaging the Lebanese economy instead of strengthening Lebanese ties with Arab countries.

January 30, 1983

FIVE YEARS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Israeli military court sentenced Rabiha Hussein Dhiab to five years imprisonment, of which three years and eight months are effective and the rest probationary.

She was found guilty of membership in a Palestinian organisation and has been imprisoned for the last two years. She is from the village of Dura al-Qara'.

VETERAN TEACHER FIRED

HEBRON — Fawzi Abu Filaat, a teacher at the Mohammadia primary school in Hebron, was sacked after 30 years in the education department.

PRO-JORDAN DOCUMENT REAPPEARS

CAIRO — According to the magazine, **October**, Mayor of Bethlehem Elias Freij, who is currently visiting Cairo met Egyptian officials and presented them with a "peace agenda," which, according to him, was prepared and signed by 200 personalities from the occupied territories.

MORE NABLUS DEMOS

A number of youths from Nablus threw stones at Israeli vehicles and set fire to tyres, blocking the roads. Israeli forces came to the place and arrested a number of youths for interrogation.

A town restriction order was issued against Al Najah University lecturer Sami Saidi for six months. He is forbidden to leave Nablus. He also has to sign-in daily at the police station.

ACCIDENT

RAMALLAH — An Israeli bus skidded near the Ama'ari refugee camp crossing. A number of Israeli students were slightly injured. Three cars and a bus were damaged.

SETTLER STONED

HEBRON — An Israeli army vehicle travelling from Beer Sheba to Hebron was pelted with stones on the southern outskirts of Dhahriyeh. An Israeli woman at the back of the vehicle was seriously injured in the head and was taken to hospital for treatment. The authorities imposed a curfew on Dhahriyeh and combed the area in search of the stone-throwers.

BOMB AT EMBASSY

TEL AVIV — A bomb exploded near the German embassy in Tel Aviv. No one was injured.

COTTON BLAZE

HAIFA — Fire broke out on a ship carrying cotton to the port of Haifa. The Israeli shipping company Zim did not say whether anyone was hurt nor did it give any reason for the fire.

PALESTINIAN STUDIES

THE TRIANGLE — The Council for the Development of Palestinian Culture in the Galilee has recently set up a research centre for Palestinian folklore and culture in the village of Taibeh in the Triangle.

The council is also studying the possibility of establishing a school of education and nursing in Nazareth. The council's request to establish an Arab university in Nazareth was rejected a year ago.

LEBANON CASUALTIES

One Israeli soldier was killed and four others wounded after an Israeli patrol was shelled by RPG rockets in an ambush east of Beirut.

Israel army radio reported last night that two military vehicles were shelled and hit by rifle fire near the Gallery Sam'an crossing in east Beirut at 8 am yesterday. One of the vehicles was destroyed.

NABLUS RESIDENT SHOT

Ahmed Salim Abu Aisha, 18, was taken to Rafidiya hospital after he was injured by a bullet in his right leg. It appears from investigations that a car passenger opened fire at the young man as he was sitting with a number of friends.

POLICE CASH

The head of the police department at the Israeli interior ministry announced that the police budget for 1983 is over IS14 billion of which 25 percent is devoted to general expenditures and the rest for salaries.

STUDENTS TRIED

The Ramallah military court postponed its session to hear the case of 29 students from Hebron University and Hebron Polytechnic. Israel Radio reported that the court decided to prolong their detention for another 10 days. They are accused of taking part in a festival at Bethlehem University and of inciting.

NO EVICTION . . . YET

BEER SHEBA — The evacuation of Beduin living near the Tal al-Milh airport has been postponed until after the winter. Israel radio reported that this will give time to solve disputes between the Israeli authorities and the Naqab Beduin.

JOURNALIST HARASSED

JENIN — Scores of Israeli soldiers and police broke into the house of Qadoura Musa, **Al Fajr** correspondent, at 11 pm. They issued him with a summons to report to police headquarters the following day.

January 31, 1983

PRICE HIKE

Fuel prices went up by an average of five percent today. One litre of gasoline now costs IS23.90. The increase also includes kerosene, diesel, and gas for home and industrial consumption. The price of consumer goods also went up by 15 percent. City bus fares go up by 10 percent tomorrow.

PRISON BRAWL

JERUSALEM — Four Arab prisoners were injured following a brawl in Beer Sheba prison. One of them was taken to hospital. A search of the cells by the prison authorities revealed 10 knives.

SETTLEMENT HALTED

The Israeli High Court issued an order **nisi** against the general commander of the West Bank to halt settlement activities on 120 dunums of land belonging to the village of Bala' in the Tulkarm region. A lawyer for the landowners protest the confiscation of their land for 'security reasons' while settlement in the area is increasing.

PERMIT SALES

NABLUS — A number of residents have complained about 'some people' who are selling permits for travel to Amman for JD20.

SETTLEMENT STARTS

The settlement administration has begun erecting prefabricated buildings on the peak of Mt. Jerizim, in Nablus, Kufr Qalil and Burin, over an area of approximately 6000 dunums. The settlement is near that of Burin and that of Jabal Sleiman. A new road linking the Nablus settlements with those in the Jenin area has been laid.

BUS BOMB

TEL AVIV — An explosive device went off near a bus on the Tel Aviv to Ashkelon route. The bus was damaged and Israeli police in Ashkelon arrested 33 people for investigation.

MORE OVERFLIGHTS

BEIRUT — Reports from Beirut say that Israeli war planes have renewed reconnaissance flights over the Lebanese capital. Official Lebanese radio reported that an Israeli armoured unit patroled the road from Gallery Sam'an and the southeastern suburbs of Beirut. Israeli soldiers combed orchards on the sides of the road.

UNRWA RESHUFFLE

WEST BANK — UNRWA sources in the West Bank report that the head of UNRWA in Jericho has decided to close the UNRWA office there and transfer the employees to other areas as of April.

"STUPID" PLEDGE DEMANDED

TEL AVIV — The general secretary of the Israel Hotel Association has described the decision of the Israeli 'civil administration' to force all foreign tourists who want to visit Israel by way of the Allenby Bridge to sign a pledge "not to contribute money to Palestinian organisations" as "a decision of stupidity." Moshe Amir said that this decision is harmful to foreign tourism in Israel and to hotels in Jerusalem and Tiberias.

Abu Ghalion house destroyed by Israeli bulldozers January 31. See last item, this page./SF

PRISON BREAK

RAMALLAH — Ten Palestinian security prisoners tried to escape from Ramallah prison. They managed to dig a hole in the cement wall of the prison and, if not caught, could have escaped within a few hours, Israel Radio said.

HOUSES DOWNED

Two houses, one in Bethlehem and the other in Dheisheh refugee camp, were bulldozed on the pretext that they are unlicensed. The Bethlehem house belongs to Omar Mohammad Shihadeh Abu Ghalion, 17, and had two stories, the first, garages and the second, two apartments. The other house belongs to Mahmoud Jaafari and consisted of three rooms, housing 12 people. It was located near Khadr gate.

KNOW PALESTINE:
Khalil: An Ancient City Under Modern Occupation

by Awad Abdel Fattah

Hebron (al-Khalil) is one of the oldest cities in Palestine. There has been a settlement there for more than 5000 years. Modern Hebronites have a popular reputation for stubborness: the town for its industry and steadfastness. The ancient character of the city is clear from a walk through the narrow lanes of the old city. The bazaar, with its arched roofs, in which merchants, buyers and visitors bustle throughout the day, bears testimony to ancient Hebron.

The Ibrahimi Mosque, set up by the Prophet Ibrahim al-Khalil, dominates the centre of the town. The large stone building, is one of Islam's holiest places. Around it and the market huddle old-style houses, their stones blackened by time and nature.

Further from the city centre, modern Hebron intrudes. Buildings of white stone cover the two hills which stand on both sides of the old centre, and the density of housing lessens as we move west.

The city, which extends over several hills and valleys, is not only important for its 85,000 inhabitants but also for about 50 villages which surround it. People from these villages travel daily to Hebron to buy or sell commodities or on their way to other parts of the country.

Economy

Grapes are the backbone of the economy of Hebron, and their quality is famous throughout Palestine. Vineyards cover about 70 percent of the lands of Hebron, according to the director of the local agricultural society. Vines seem to cover every meter of the mountainous Hebron district. Hills are divided into small plots separated by stone barriers which prevent water from removing the soil and the trees.

The rest of the land is devoted to grain and vegetable cultivation. Recently locals have started planting olive trees in place of grapes.

Local farmers have lately begun clearing lands on mountain tops with modern equipment This change is, they say, due to the restrictions imposed on them by the Israeli occupation authorities. Problems of marketing grapes accross the bridge are growing constantly "It inflicts heavy losses on us," said Badran Jaber, a farmer from Hebron.

Industries

There are several industries in Hebron, some established, others newer. The dozens of quarries have for several decades constituted the livelihood for more than 1000 families. After 1967 quarrying was industrialised. Local stone is exported to Arab countries such as Jordan and Kuwait as well as being sold all over the West Bank and Israel.

There are also ceramics, pottery and tanning industries. One of the newer industries is shoe manufacturing. According to one owner there are more than 50 factories in Hebron. The main market for local shoes is the West Bank itself.

One of the biggest single employers is the food processing and canning plant. This private factory has 50 workers. According to farmers the canning factory uses the major part of Hebron's agricultural production.

Societies

There are several societies in the town providing services and aid. Almost all of them are independent of any official body or institution. Some were incorporated more than 20 years ago.

The Red Crescent Society, which was set up in the '50s, is the oldest and still one of the most active. It has opened several kindergartens, a center for the retarded and a medical clinic for children.

The Graduates Society set up in 1953, opened a high school with special teaching programs which qualified students to go to Egyptian universities. Now about 270 students receive education there.

In addition to the school, the Graduates Society founded the Hebron Polytechnic in 1978. The Currently 400 students study there. Over the last four years 270 students have graduated. "This institute," said Badran Jaber, who also works as a teacher there, "is in the occupied territories." Financial backing comes from the fees, donations and grants from the Jordanian ministry of social affairs. The treasurer of the Graduates Society told **Al Fajr** that all money from outside was blocked by the Israeli authorities last year. The treasurer points out that the authorities prevented grants from an American aid society being sent directly to the polytechnic. It was announced that the cash would be let in if it was paid through the Village Leagues. This was rejected by both the donor and the Graduates Society.

The society of the Friends of the Patients has opened a laboratory, an X-ray centre and a dental clinic in the city. They have also been requesting to set up a hospital for four years. So far, the Isareli military authorities have not issued a construction permit to the society. There is no large hospital in the city. Hebron's single Israeli military government-run general hospital, Alia, was founded in 1957 and has only 60 beds. A small maternity hospital was set up in 1978.

"As a result, the local residents of Hebron face a big health problem," says pharmacist Ali al-Kawasmeh. There is a major shortage of medicine The high fees in Alia hospital, as well as the lack of qualified doctors, encourage a large proportion of Hebron residents to travel to Jericho or to Makassed hospital in Jerusalem.

Education

There are two higher education institutions in town: Hebron University, originally a shari'a college, set up in 1971, and the Polytechnic. Most students are from the local area.

Recently, two faculties were added to the university — English and Arab language and literature — and the administration plans to add others. Previously Islamic shari'a was the only subject taught in the university. "As a result," said Nitham Ja'abari, a member of the students council, "the number of students has doubled, and today the purely religious character of the college has vanished."

What Hebron Means for Its Population

Hebron is the capital of the southern area of the West Bank. Social relations in Hebron are quite different from those in other areas. According to Shukralla, tribal relations are still important, as well as old Arab traditions and habits, such as generosity and courage.

Badran Jaber views the family and religious fanaticism as forms related to the agricultural character of the life of the Hebronites. "The tribal type of social relations here gives the opportunity to the individual to feel that his family to which he belongs constitutes an economic and social protector against problems. However the social relations among the people are still strong and they are helpful to each other."

Hebron, for the population of the surrounding villages, is their capital. Naim Audi, a former teacher from Tarqumia, told **Al Fajr** that, "Hebron is a commercial and industrial centre for these villages." He added that villagers flood into Hebron everyday. "Hebron is like the mother of the villages," he said.

Facade of Hebron Graduates Union/AAF

Nafha Prisoners Launch Hunger Strike

Seventy-six Palestinian prisoners in Nafha jail in the Naqab started a hunger strike January 22 to protest the deteriorating conditions at the prison.

News of the strike reached the outside world via letters from prisoners to their relatives. In them they complained that the prison governor had not issued winter clothing or blankets, and refused to give them adequate food or decent medical services, according to a lawyer for a number of Nafha prisoners.

The Israeli authorities prevented Muhammad Naamneh, a lawyer from Jerusalem, from seeing clients at Nafha jail January 25. The advocate was reportedly told that because of the strike, all visits are banned. "In fact, the administration of Nafha jail does not want news of the strike and its developments to be spread outside the jail," Naamneh told **Al Fajr**.

Prisoners' relatives, who have been holding solidarity protests in Gaza and Jerusalem Red Cross offices since January 22, told **Al Fajr** of their anxieties and uneasiness over the strike.

Muhammad Waari, whose brother Awni Waari, 32, is serving a nine year term at Nafha, said, "The Palestinian prisoners are waging a new, hard battle. Some might die, like Ali Jaafari and Rasem Halawah did, during the 1980 strike."

Um Abed Malabi, whose three sons Zaki, 30, Riyad, 24, and Zuhair, 25, were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1976, told **Al Fajr** that this strike is for humanitarian reasons, like the former strike. "Their bad conditions forced them to strike again," she commented.

Amal Qassem, whose brother Omar has been in jail since 1969, told **Al Fajr** that Nafha prisoners will continue to struggle for their survival.

A common statement appeared in several letters from inside the jail: "For the last ten days, we have prepared ourselves for an indefinite hunger strike. All the prisoners agreed to start it after the failure of all attempts to improve conditions. What the Israeli authorities gave us are merely empty slogans while they tightened their grip around our throats, preventing us from getting enough air. . . we want air to breathe."

Nafha prison was built in 1979 to hold leading Palestinian security prisoners serving long terms. In 1980, the prisoners held a 47-day hunger strike. Ali Jaafari and Rasem Halawah died when guards force-fed them.

Interrogations and Beatings Mark Najah Student Council Detention

Adnan Damiri, head of the Al Najah University students council, said on his release from jail January 25 that he and other recently released student councillors were subject to daily interrogations and beatings to get them to confess to "incitement."

Damiri and another eight members of the council were held January 10 after troops raided the campus following a patriotic festival. "We were summoned to the military governor's office in Nablus and left standing outside from 9 am to 5 pm," Damiri told **Al Fajr**. Later they were taken to stand four cold hours outside the local police headquarters before Damiri was taken to Nablus central prison and the others to the nearby Fara'a detention centre. Damiri then spent three days in solitary confinement before his first interrogation.

Meanwhile the other councillors, says Damiri, were beaten and repeatedly woken during the night under the punitive regime of Fara'a. One student, Rashed Zorba, was especially affected by the beatings of the reserve soldiers. Zorba was sick before his detention and was carrying medication with him.

Damiri reports that he and his fellow students were all pressured to confess during daily meetings with plainclothes interrogators. The recently elected students council president said that he was threatened with eight years detention if he didn't speak out; was told all his colleagues had confessed. He was also placed in cells with collaborators who told him that he should speak, as they were going to testify against him in court anyway.

Damiri also witnessed the interrogation of his wife who was detained briefly during his stay in Nablus jail. "They raided my home and took all my books and called her in for grilling at the same time," he said.

All students council members are now free. They do not know whether they will be tried or not. Meanwhile, those who had their homes raided have had to reconstruct their studies. "All the books I had confiscated were bought at the local bookstore," said Damiri, "and some of them were coursebooks." A university spokesman noted that one of those taken was the standard work for a course on the Palestinian question in the Middle East department.

Military Detains Najah Lecturer In Continuing Wave of Harassment

The Israeli military authorities detained a teacher from Najah University January 21. Reports from the university say the institution has been effectively closed down for two weeks as a result of military roadblocks which are erected on a daily basis at the entrances.

Sami Kilani, a physics lecturer, was arrested at his home in Nablus and taken to the local military compound for questioning. University officials say they tried to check on his whereabouts, without success. Before his arrest Kilani was served with a military order restricting him to his home town, Ya'abad, 25 kilometers north of Nablus. The Israeli army spokesman made no announcement about the detention.

Kilani's arrest coincides with increasing Israeli pressure on Najah University, which has been effectively closed down since it was raided by the authorities on January 10. Sa'eb Araqat, public relations director at the university, told **Al Fajr** that Israeli soldiers set up checkposts at the campus entrances daily and that no students and faculty were allowed to pass through.

A 'civil administration' spokesperson said the barriers were to ensure that foreign staff do not reach campus. Araqat points out, however, that at least for the first two days, students from outside the Nablus district were being turned back and told they could not study unless they got permits from the military authorities. This, he said, is in line with military order 854. The controversial order is boycotted by West Bank educationalists and has been condemned by UNESCO. It was officially "withdrawn" by the 'civil administration' following further international condemnation at the start of this academic year.

Sami Kilani

Eight of nine members of the Al Najah students council are being held in detention, for a second week. According to reports from the military they are to be charged with "incitement."

Araqat denied that the student council members were involved in making inflamatory speeches, and said that they in fact had called for a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem at a meeting the day before they were all arrested.

Langer Petitions High Court to Visit Client Kidnapped From Lebanon

Lawyer Felicia Langer petitioned the Israeli High Court January 5 for a permit to see Miriam Abd al-Jalil, 30, a Palestinian woman arrested in Lebanon, who has been detained in Ramle since November. Miriam Abd al-Jalil, a charity worker at Burj al-Shamali refugee camp near Tyre, South Lebanon, was arrested by Israeli troops in September. Her family was told that an International Committee of the Red Cross delegate had seen her on November 1 in Neve Tirtza prison for women in Ramle.

Miriam Abd al-Jalil was employed by the **Najda** Association, a cultural society which was established in 1978. She taught and managed business affairs of the association's embroidery workshop at her home camp. After her detention a local priest inquired at the Israeli military headquarters in Tyre about her condition. He later reported that he was told "not to get involved in the matter." Abd al-Jalil's friends and acquaintances thought she was killed in the blast which wrecked the Tyre military headquarters November 11. Felicia Langer was hired to defend Miriam on January 1, by Richard Beaumline, a Swiss member of parliament and professor of law, who was apparently contacted by the **Najda** Association. Earlier, on December 23, 1982, the association's foreign relations committee forwarded a letter to Langer via Livia Rokach, an Italian journalist, requesting her assistance in checking into Abd al-Jalil's situation.

Israeli-Appointed Jenin Municipality Harasses Local Residents

Jenin municipal employees raided the local produce market and fined stall-holders for stacking empty crates in the market square January 17. Produce vendors, who were harmed by the measure, complained to the Israeli-appointed committee which administers Jenin affairs but got no response.

A Jenin resident who witnessed the raid told **Al Fajr** that municipal officials arrived in the market and arbitrarily began handing out IS500 fines. Merchants were told they must pay the fine in court. Some stallholders believe the Israeli-appointed committee, which replaced the elected council last summer, intends to **de facto** raise the rent of stalls.

The municipality-owned produce market is traditionally rented to a contractor, who sub-lets the stalls. Residents believe that the contractor has secretly coordinated with the committee to force a rent-hike.

A few weeks ago, municipal employees dug up the local bus station after bus company owners refused to pay a rent increase demanded by the lessee. Several residents have also complained recently that Shehab Sanouri, head of the appointed municipality, has been imposing "compulsory donations" on residents seeking construction licences. "Donations" are set at JD200 for commercial buildings and JD100 for houses. **Al Fajr** was unable to confirm these rumours.

Land and Property

Military Orders 20,000 Dhahriyeh Dunums Seized

Israeli military authorities ordered the seizure of 20,000 dunums of land belonging to residents of Dhahriyeh, south of Hebron, January 13. Landowners pledged to fight the move in court.

The shocking news came when an Israeli officer conveyed the order to village residents, and told them that they have 21 days to submit objections to an Israeli military objections committee. The committee is located at West Bank military headquarters in Beit El, near Ramallah.

Residents from the village told **Al Fajr** that the Israeli officer indicated grabbed land to the village mukhtars; several landowners expressed suspicion that the Israeli authorities intend to build Jewish settlements on their land.

The tract of land falls in an area slated by the World Zionist Organization — 'Drobless Plan' for the establishment of settlement blocs around densely-populated centres in the occupied territories. In this case the land is located within the Mount Hebron bloc which, according to the WZO plan, will be the site of three settlements: Adoraim, Rave, and Tivat-Horesh.

The land was described by its owners as partially planted with almond and olive trees, while another section is used for growing grain. For the four **hamulas** (extended families) who own the 20,000 dunums, the land constitutes a major source of income.

Presently landowners are reported to be preparing their land ownership documents, to present a joint objection to the land seizure. One Hebronite land expert, who is well informed about the situation in Dhahriyeh, said that the landowners are probably going to try to obtain an **order nisi** from the Israeli High Court, as an initial step to curb possible work on the land before their case is heard.

According to Israeli sources, the land grab was ordered for "military purposes."

Jenin Residents Ask: WHY DO THEY WANT TO REGISTER OUR ASSETS?

The West Bank military governorate, in an unexplained move at the beginning of January, ordered more than 15 Palestinian residents from the Jenin district to fill out a "declaration of property" form. The forms were sent by the Israeli officer in charge of the tax department at the West Bank military governorate in Beit El.

The residents noted that notifications were only sent to residents who have been labelled "anti-Israel" in the past, and have taken stands on issues such as the 'civil administration' and the establishment of Village Leagues. The registration forms, complex questionnaires covering property, furnishings, jewelry, cash holdings and other assets, came with a letter signed by the tax officer which informed recipients: "You are required to fill out the forms about your posessions in Israel (sic) and abroad ..."

Some of those who received the form believe the authorities are using it as means to put political pressure on them. Hasan Abu Baker, member of the Jenin chamber-of-commerce, told **Al Fajr** that the authorities had earlier cancelled his concession to run a bus between Jenin and Ya'abad. He explained that he was told to present an application to the 'civil administration' to license his bus, but he refused. As a result, they published ads in Israeli papers about their intention to sell the right for the route.

Wafa Mar'i, a former engineer of Jenin municipality, told **Al Fajr** that he believes that the Israelis have specifically picked names for the purpose of harassing those individuals, possibly by forcing them to pay additional taxes. Other residents say that it might be a step towards practical but undeclared annexation of the occupied territories.

Many of those who received the notification said that they will not fill out the forms. Some of them have already contacted lawyers to check the legality of the order. Residents were given 30 days to fill out the forms and send them back.

Early last week, similar forms were sent to a number of merchants. Many merchants refused to fill out the forms and insisted that such a step is aimed at collecting property taxes on assets.

Precedent-Setting Court Order Rescinds Abu Dis Land Grab

The Israeli military authorities have notified four landowners from Abu Dis, near Jerusalem, that they have cancelled an order to confiscate their land. The rescinding of the land grab order came in late December, 1982 after nearly two years of litigation at the military objections committee in Beit El. Defence lawyer Darwish Nasser who represented the four land owners, said he based his litigation on Jordanian law and refuted Israeli military order 59. Nasser explained that according to Jordanian laws, some of which are still in effect in the West Bank, the land is **miri** land — which belongs to farmers who claim it if they have planted it for more than 10 years. He pointed out that the landowners had cultivated the area under threat throughout this period.

Israeli authorities presented aerial photographs of uncultivated land, which they claimed was the site they wanted to grab. The defence lawyer explained that the land in question was adjacent to the area photographed.

A photographic expert, appointed by the committee, was unable to determine from the pictures which plots were uncultivated, and which cultivated.

At the end of deliberations in October 1982 the objections committee recommended cancellation of land confiscation orders touching any land proven to be cultivated as defined in Jordanian law. The military objections committee's recommendation was adopted after it was ratified by the military governor of the West Bank.

The grab order was issued February 19, 1981 and covered thousands of dunums of land from al-Aizariye and Abu Dis.

Military order 59 (1967) grants the Israeli custodian of absentee property authority to declare land 'government property.' The order also states that anyone wishing to object to a land confiscation measure must prove his right to the land.

Court Stops Military From Destroying 70 Beit Lahia Homes

Twenty-nine Palestinian residents from Beit Lahia in the Gaza Strip obtained an **order nisi** from the Israeli High Court January 18 prohibiting the demolition of their houses. Early last week, Israeli bulldozers drove into the neighbourhood, destroying one house inhabited by an elderly couple, several garden walls, and uprooting citrus trees.

Israeli surveyors from the military government's housing department had visited the area January 12 and informed 70 families of the authorities' intention to demolish their houses.

The Israeli authorities claim that the houses were built on government land without licenses. House owners, however, say that their houses were built before 1967, and that therefore the Israeli authorities have no jurisdiction over them.

Locals say all the houses in the neighbourhood were built at the time of British mandate or Egyptian rule, without any government opposition. They note that the Israeli authorities had not commented on their houses for the 15 years

Nimr Hassan Maqadmeh built his five-room house in 1963. He says that the fact that he paid water and electricity bills and property taxes throughout the years of Israeli occupation, proves that the houses were legally constructed.

The land in question was government property during Ottoman rule. Most of the land in the Gaza Strip was owned by the sultan or royal family. Farmers had the right to live and work on the land.

According to Ottoman land laws, which still apply in the Gaza Strip, farmers who work or protect the land for more than 10 years cannot be legally evicted.

Fayez Abu Rahmeh, chairman of the Gaza Lawyers Union, told **Al Fajr** that as of 1980, the Israeli military authorities have been seizing land on the pretext that it is "government property" because the owners possess neither Jordanian nor Egyptian land registration documents.

Should the Israeli decision be carried out, nearly 500 Palestinian residents will lose their homes. Most of the neighbourhood residents are workers employed in Israeli factories.

Settlers Snatch Dura Land

Israeli settlers seized 1,500 dunums of land belonging to Palestinian residents from Dura in the Hebron district January 23. Landowners said that they possess land ownership documents and that they are not going to give up their land for any amount of money offered to them.

Eyewitnesses said that shortly after the grab, a bulldozer was seen opening a road through the centre of the confiscated plot. The bulldozer was guarded by two armed civilians who warned people from approaching. Locals only became aware of the confiscation when they saw Israelis moving into the area.

Members of the Abu Sheikhah family, who own the land, say they complained to the Israeli custodian of absentee property, at the Hebron military governorate. The Israeli officer admitted that "his people" had made a mistake, by working on the wrong plot. He promised to "correct everything."

The next day, nothing was done. Mohammad Abu Sheikhah told **Al Fajr** that he felt that the Israeli officer was trying to gain time by fooling them, until the legal period for objections was over.

Some of the landowners informed **Al Fajr** that they suspect local land dealers of having sold the land after forging ownership documents. One man, who refused to be identified, said that he saw a land dealer pointing out the land to Israeli surveyors, who were marking the mountain, early in December.

"We approached the family of the land dealer and asked them to pressure their sons into not getting involved in any forgery deal. They said they could do nothing about it."

The land plot in question is located in an area called Haret Hammad and Kan'an Riash, southeast of the Samu' triangle. It is planted with wheat which has been completely destroyed by the bulldozer.

The landowners have appointed a Jerusalem lawyer to take the case. Mohammad Abu Sheikhah said he will first try to obtain an **order nisi** from the Israeli High Court, in order to stop work on the land.

EDUCATION

BZU: Two Students Detained, Foreign Faculty Barred

Israeli military personnel arrested two Bir Zeit University students and barred foreign faculty from entering campus January 18. Officials at the public relations office in BZU told **Al Fajr** that two military checkposts, stationed near the new campus and the Jifna road for two hours, stopped all cars and buses carrying students and teachers to the university from Ramallah. Israeli soldiers at the checkposts ordered teachers and students to get out of their vehicles, conducted body searches and arrested two students: Jamil Musa Ajalin, from Anata, near Jerusalem, and Muhammad Abd al-Rahman, from Sinjel, north of Ramallah. Soldiers stopped nine foreign teachers, checked their names against a list, recorded passport numbers and registered visa expiration dates.

Soldiers reportedly informed the foreigners that they had been forbidden to teach at BZU, and that if they did they would be breaking the law.

The Israeli military governor phoned the BZU administration January 16 for a list of 29 names of foreign teachers who have applied for work permits.

Reports from BZU said many students have been arrested or summoned to the military governorate at Ramallah, and several students' homes have been vandalised since January 10. The latest raid, BZU sources said, came January 17 when soldiers in military vehicles and Israeli intelligence men conducted night raids on several lodgings and arrested six students. The six were part of a larger group of 13 who were summoned to Ramallah military headquarters January 11.

Ayman Khoury, a junior engineering student, and his guest, Michael Abu Zulof, chairman of the Bethlehem University students senate, both from Beit Sahour near Bethlehem, were arrested after soldiers vandalised their house and confiscated their text books and notebooks.

جامعة بيرزيت
BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

Another student reported that "one jeep stopped by the house of Yacoub Abu Kharan, a sophomore, knocked on the door and when they received no answer, broke it down. They confiscated books and notebooks but did not find Abu Kharan in."

On January 11 a similar raid on the house of Nitham Ataya, a junior in the Middle East studies department, resulted in five arrests. All written and printed material was taken from the premises.

Hebron U. Students Detained; Foreign Faculty Threatened

No classes were held at Hebron University for three days, January 15 to 17, following the detention of 30 students. As well, five foreign teachers were ordered January 17 to stop lecturing until they sign an anti-PLO pledge.

Thirty-two students riding home from a Bethlehem University arts festival were stopped by an Israeli military patrol and escorted directly to Fara'a detention centre near Jenin. Five women students were released. Students at the university called an open-ended strike to protest the detentions as soon as they heard the news, when turning up for classes January 16. The next day over 150 students demonstrated in al-Salam Street near the campus. According to local reports demonstrators stoned Israeli military vehicles. Israeli troops dispersed the students and no arrests were reported. Immediately afterwards checkposts were set-up around the university.

Dr. Yunis Amer, Hebron University acting-president, was summoned January 16 to the military governorate in Hebron. Reporting on his conversation Amer said he denied university responsibility for what the governor called "disturbances." Amer said he told the military governor that students left the university without making any disturbance or chanting slogans. During the meeting the military governor asked Amer to tell the five foreign teachers at the university to meet him the next day.

The teachers, all in the English department, were told January 17 to stop teaching at the university immediately since they have only tourist visas. According to sources at the university the British and Irish teachers were threatened with arrest if they keep working.

Dr. Sharif Ja'abari, member of the university's board of trustees, told **Al Fajr** that "a new repressive campaign against local Palestinian universities is starting in Hebron. It is a strong blow against our small university which has only 300 students."

The foreign teachers had been summoned January 8 along with the vice-president of Hebron University and the chairman of the board of trustees, Muhammad Rashed Ja'abari, to meet the military governor, Major Baruch. Then the teachers were ordered to stop lecturing at the university. The Israeli major registered the expiry date of their current visas. The teachers continued teaching, however, because they felt the oral orders were unclear.

Sources from the university speculated the order stopping foreign teachers from lecturing was in retaliation to the students' protest. Major Baruch reportedly told Muhammad Rashed Ja'abari at their January 8 interview that the Israeli authorities "intend to summon the rest of the foreign teachers at Bir Zeit, Bethlehem and Al Najah universities."

Last Autumn 26 foreign passport-holding teachers at West Bank universities were deported following their refusal to sign an anti-PLO oath now incorporated by the Israelis into occupied territories work permit applications. Over 30 foreign teachers have also been forbidden to teach.

ISRAELI ARMY RANSACKS BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY

Armed Israeli soldiers raided and searched the campus of Bethlehem University after midnight January 13 and took away posters, literature and other printed material from bulletin boards. According to a university press release, two military vehicles appeared at the university gates at 11:30 pm and demanded entry to the campus. The gatekeeper refused to unlock the gates and called university officials. When Brother Thomas, Bethlehem University vice-president, and others arrived, the soldiers showed them a document written in Hebrew and claimed that it was a search warrant signed by the military commander of the central district, Uri Orr. They refused to give Brother Thomas the warrant, but he allowed them access to the campus.

For the next four hours, the press release said, soldiers toured buildings, confiscating papers, posters, written materials and photos from bulletin boards. Soldiers also photographed university rooms.

In mid-search a squad was dispatched to the Beit Sahour home of Nidal Abu Zuluf, student council secretary, for keys to the students senate office. The students' office was emptied of posters, printed materials, books and notebooks.

Brother Robert Daszkiewicz, academic vice-president of the Catholic-sponsored college, condemned what he called "the invasion against Bethlehem University." Brother Robert said, in the official release, that the raid infringed on "Bethlehem University's and its students' rights to own property; to be free to hold opinions without interference and to seek, to receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers; and to be free to hold peaceful assemblies."

The university administration called upon "all people who seek peace and justice and all those committed to preserving academic freedom" to join them in speaking out "against this night-time invasion."

Musa Darweesh, public relations officer at Bethlehem, told **Al Fajr**: "These restrictive measures imposed upon the local Palestinian universities have one aim: to control education in the West Bank."

Earlier on January 13 troops had surrounded the campus and prevented students and visitors from getting in. At the time, hundreds of students were celebrating, delivering speeches and singing as part of a cultural programme, entitled "The Palestinian Song Festival" sponsored by the students senate arts club.

University sources said the Israeli authorities had contacted them before the start of the festival and asked them to stop it. Brother Thomas reportedly told the authorities that he refused as it was "internal activity."

Raids similar to the one on Bethlehem University have been reported from al-Najah and Bir Zeit universities last week. Ten members of the students council at Al-Najah and several students at Bir Zeit were arrested.

On January 14 an Israeli military vehicle stopped a crowded bus with Hebron University students and took them to Fara'a detention centre near Jenin. Reports from Hebron said the arrests occurred after a festival sponsored by Hebron students.

SWISS SOLIDARITY

The student federation of ETH (Institute for Higher Education in Sciences) and the student federation of Swiss universities sent a letter to Menachem Begin, prime minister of Israel, December 25, 1982, protesting repressive Israeli measures against West Bank universities.

Al Fajr publishes below the contents of the letter:

We would like to express our indignation and protest the repressive measures recently imposed on the universities in the West Bank. We find especially offensive the obligation imposed on professors to sign a document condemning the PLO, as well as the arbitrary expulsions which have followed. These measures deny the basic legitimate freedom of expression in the academic community, which is a strange and tragic parallel to the Nazi regime whose goal was the expulsion of Jews and political opponents from the academic community.

Thus we demand:

— That the professors and students in the West Bank not be obliged, under any circumstances, to take a political oath or sign a loyalty document;

— That work permits not be denied for political reasons;

— Freedom of entry to all universities;

— Protection of a student's right to freedom of access to all books and publications;

— Lifting of all censorship;

— Full rights of expression, public meetings and demonstrations; and

— Freedom for all those students currently detained.

We draw your attention to the fact that UNESCO has presented the above mentioned measures as contrary to the freedom of education.

VSETH (federation of students of the ETH)
General Assembly,
Lukas Weiss (president)

VSU (federation of university students)
Committee
Kathrin Zatti

Interview With Mayor Muhammad Milhem

THE PALESTINIAN POINT-OF-VIEW

Muhammad Milhem

Muhammmad Milhem, the expelled Palestinian mayor, has become more famous than his West Bank village of Halhoul. Along with the expelled Mayor of Hebron Fahd Qawasmi, he has toured the world capitals successfully arguing his personal case and desire to return home and the case of the Palestinian people's national aspiration to a homeland and to establish an independent state. The articulate and eloquent mayor has been the guest of French President Francois Mitterrand, British officials, UN assemblies and US Secretary of State George Shultz, in addition to speaking at innumerable conventions and meetings the world over.

Al Fajr spoke with the handsome mayor in Jordan. Residing at the home of relatives in the suburbs of Amman, Milhem gave Al Fajr a two-hour interview. Dressed in a traditional **gallabieh,** Abu Ala' inquired about the situation in the occupied territories. He seemed keen to inquire about Al Fajr and its troubles. Milhem praised Al Fajr's English language edition, which he said, is "an important publication for anyone interested in following the situation in the occupied territories."

The Halhoul mayor was very happy to hear about the Palestinian-Israeli art exhibit taking place in West Jerusalem. One of the progressive Israeli participants had created an artistic work at Halhoul in memory of the two martyrs who were killed during demonstrations while Milhem was in Halhoul. Following are excerpts of the interview:

Al Fajr: **Your most recent meetings with US officials received extensive coverage. Can you tell us about the meetings, how they were set up and what took place?**

Milhem: The meetings were initiated by the US State Department that knew that we were planning to speak at the American University in Washington during the conference on the situation in the occupied territories which was sponsored by the American-Palestinian Education Foundation. We spoke to US officials with the full prior knowledge and approval of the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Abu Ammar (PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat) and the Palestinian leadership told us that this was a rare opportunity to explain the real Palestinian stand. We gave the Americans the picture of the conflict as seen by the PLO and the Palestinian people without which, we explained, there can never be a just peace.

I explained this to Shultz very clearly. In Washington, we were not representatives of anyone and we signed no agreements. We did what we have been doing since our expulsion. Meeting with officials and the public in the Arab world and (internationally) explaining our positions. I think that our work has brought about a positive response and better understanding by general public opinion of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, especially as far as land is concerned. Being an elected mayor was beneficial in providing many openings and chances for me to speak.

Al Fajr: **When you and Hebron Mayor Fahd Qawasmi were expelled, why didn't you officially join the PLO and accept positions in it. Was it your idea or the PLO's?**

Milhem: Working for Palestine is not limited to any official body. This work is the duty of every Palestinian in the occupied territories or outside, regardless of official title or position. Our people and friends in the occupied territories continue to believe that our expulsion was illegal. In addition to our expulsion, the Israeli authorities removed from office the elected mayors of Nablus, Ramallah, Jenin, Qalqilya, Anabta and Gaza, who like us are still considered by our people as the legitimate mayors.

There have been no local residents willing to accept the position of the expelled or fired mayors. Meanwhile, the deputy mayors of Halhoul and Hebron have taken over our work, in the service of our Palestinian people. Our decision has won us the respect of friend and foe, and of course the PLO has respected our style and has allowed us to continue working this way.

Relations with Jordan

Al Fajr: **Would you participate in any future negotiations alongg with the Jordanians?**

Milhem: The Palestinian Liberation Organisation speaks for Palestinians inside and outside. Any new plan or policy aimed at attaining Palestinian rights must come through the PLO. The Palestine National Council and the PLO's executive committee decide the answer to this question. The PLO will take the appropriate decision as to who will be entrusted to talk with the US or any other country or in any international conference. No Arab or foreign country has the right to dictate who will speak on behalf of the Palestinians without the approval of the PLO. The PLO is well aware of the present circumstances in the area in relation to international policies and will take the appropriate decision as to which delegation will go to any future negotiating table.

Al Fajr: **Did Chairman Arafat give you any special message to relay to the Americans?**

Milhem: Abu Ammar didn't send any special message with us, but the meeting we had with him prior to our going to Washington was aimed at evaluating the meetings and how they could serve the interests of the Palestinian people. The PLO is aware of US enmity towards it, nevertheless it felt that it would be beneficial to have the US officials hear the real Palestinian point of view.

Reagan Plan

Al Fajr: **What do you think of the Reagan plan?**

Milhem: The Reagan plan is very clear. The PLO and every Palestinian feels that the plan lacks two essential features: The right to self-determination, and the right to an independent Palestinian state. Yet Palestinians believe that in the drafting of the plan and in the terms used in the plan, there are some new ideas which cannot be denied, considering US policy towards the PLO.

Al Fajr: **When you were in Washington did you feel that the American government was serious about their plan?**

Milhem: They said that they were serious. But honestly, I look around me, four months after the plan was announced, and I don't see any real seriousness in the American initiative. The opposite is true; foreign aid to Israel was increased. Reagan had asked for a freeze of settlements but it seems that American actions don't coincide with declared American policies.

Al Fajr: **But the PLO has grown closer to Jordan despite some reservations of Palestinians inside and outside.**

Milhem: Closeness between the PLO and any Arab country, Jordan or any other country, must be in harmony with the Palestine National Council and the PLO charter. After what happened in Beirut and the apathy of all the Arab countries without exception, I don't think that there is any one regime better than the others.

Al Fajr: **What would you like to be the agenda of the coming PNC?**

Milhem: If I was asked to write the agenda of the coming PNC conference it would be as follows:

1. Establishing a strategic plan for struggle in the occupied territories as the circumstances allow and in coordination with all the PLO factions;

2. A flexible political plan allowing for movement but still within the general guidelines of the PLO charter basing its strength on the first clause of the charter. (Palestine is an Arab homeland, linked with the Arab world by pan-Arab nationalism. Palestine, along with the rest of the Arab countries, forms the greater Arab homeland.-ed.)

Al Fajr: **Can Israeli opposition to Begin's policies be encouraged and benefited from?**

Milhem: This is an important point. The PLO and the Palestinian people must take the appropriate steps to encourage this phenomenon inside the Israeli community. I was happy to hear of the Palestinian-Israeli art exhibit, it is a positive step. Palestinians should cooperate with such Israelis in order to bring down those who play with the lives of Palestinians and Israelis alike, not to mention playing with world peace. The people who demonstrated against the policies of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin must be supported and their numbers increased.

Al Fajr: **Do you have anything to say to the Israelis?**

Milhem: Yes, Palestinians are not against coexistence. We believe in the UN resolutions which (acknowledge) the existence of two nations. But Israeli policies which are announced day and night proclaim that they will never allow Palestinians to establish their state. Instead the Israeli government claims that all lands are part of the 'Land of Israel' and that the Palestinians have no right to it.

Israeli have a humanitarian responsibility to seek a better future for their own children who are placed by Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon and Begin on the front lines. The Israeli citizen who demonstrated against his government policies during the Lebanon invasion has won the respect of every Palestinian. I, personally, have always respected their struggle and I believe that my struggle to return and for the Palestinian people's right does not conflict with their struggle against their leaders who are war merchants sacrificing innocent Palestinian and Israeli blood alike for their personal satisfactions and that of their American masters. We must cooperate, Arabs and Jews alike, to live together in peace. Every policy which is based on armies will eventually end in destruction as has happened over and over in the past.

Al Fajr: **If you are asked officially to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, would you agree?**

Milhem: If the PLO's official bodies; the PNC and the executive committee headed by Arafat, ask me to conduct any action, I am prepared to do that because I am confident that what the PLO with its official institutions want is in the interest of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian case.